

*Citywide Strategy for Youth Development:
making Boston a safe and hopeful place for all youth*

REPORT OF THE 2000 BOSTON YOUTH SURVEY

June 2001



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2000 Boston Youth Survey Report

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The Survey Sample

- The 2000 Boston Youth Survey obtained the responses of 2,285 teens from two major sources: the Boston Public Schools summer school/transitional programs and various summer jobs programs (similar sample to 1999). *(See Table 1 in Appendix)* These two samples differed in a number of respects, including the following: the summer school sample was older, had disproportionately more Latino teens and fewer White teens, was more likely to have Boston Public School (BPS) than private/METCO/charter school (P/M/C) teens, and was more likely to have immigrant teens. *(See Table 3)*
- The survey was analyzed by the following demographic groups: gender, age (most were 14-17), race/ethnicity, type of school attended (primarily BPS vs. P/M/C schools), immigrant status and neighborhoods whose samples totaled more than 80. *(See Table 2)*
- The survey sample was not randomly distributed, but it does describe a fairly broad sample of the teen population in the city. However, it cannot be assumed that the sample is representative of Boston teens. This is especially true for some of the racial/ethnic groups, because they are not distributed proportionally between the summer school and summer job samples. *(See Table 4)*

School and Literacy

- Nearly one-fourth of all teens surveyed came to school tired most or all of the time. The same proportion came to school having slept less than six hours the previous night most or all of the time. Nearly one-half (45%) came to school without breakfast. These indicators were negatively related to academic performance (i.e., grades) as reported by the teens.
- Only 45% of respondents reported doing more than one hour of homework a night. A higher proportion of both P/M/C teens (60%) and BPS summer job teens (54%) than summer school teens (37%) spent more than one hour a night on their homework. There was a strong relationship between the amount of time spent on homework and on the grades the teens reported receiving.
- 70% of all teens (and 82% of the 13-14 year olds) who took the MCAS exam said they took it seriously.
- Nearly one in four respondents reported not missing any days of school for reasons other than sickness. A similar proportion missed seven days or more. There was a strong relationship between getting low grades and missing more than seven days for reasons other than sickness.
- Nearly two in three (61%) of all respondents had access to the Internet at home. A “digital divide” existed between White and Asian teens, on the one hand (80%, 84% with access), and Latino and Black teens on the other (48%, 53% with access). The percentage of teens reporting access to the Internet at home increased from 58% to 68% from 1999 to 2000. 87% reported access at school.

Out-of-school and Extra-curricular Activities

- Nearly half of teens reported most frequently spending their after-school time in unstructured and unsupervised ways: hanging out with friends (26%) or going home alone (22%). Hanging out with friends after school was related negatively with grades. Only 13% attended a school- or community-based program most frequently after school.
- Only 35% of the respondents attended a school- or community-based program any amount of time after school. The difference between summer job teen and summer school teen respondents was strong (47% vs. 27%), in part because White teens were most likely (47%) to attend such a program and Latino teens least likely (23%) of all the racial/ethnic groups.
- Nearly four in five (78%) teens reported regular exercise or sports activity. Nearly half (46%) of them participated in a team sport, but males were more likely to do so than females, White teens most likely by far of all the racial/ethnic groups, and summer job teens much more likely than summer school teens.
- One in four teens reported spending six hours or more a day watching TV, playing video games, or on the Internet for fun (one in three 13-14 year olds); 44% spent four or more hours a day doing so.
- Three out of four teens had a TV in their bedroom, while three in ten had a computer in their bedroom. Asian teens were the only group which had reversed proportions: 53% had a computer in their bedroom, while only 44% had a TV. (They also had the highest levels by far of spending more than one hour or more than three hours a night on their homework.)

Adults in Their Lives

- The vast majority of teens (85%) – summer school and summer job teens alike – felt that success in school was very important to their parents.
- 42% of the respondents ate dinner with at least one parent five or more days a week, but the same percentage of teens reported eating with a parent only two days or less. There was a trend by age, with younger teens more likely than older ones to eat dinner with their parents on a frequent basis.
- Over half of all respondents reported that their parents always or mostly monitored their whereabouts. One in ten reported that their parents rarely or never did; the rest were monitored some of the time. Here, too, as would be expected, there was a trend by age, as older teens were less likely than younger teens to report being monitored.
- There were only three topics out of 25 for which at least half of all teens reported talking with their parents in the previous six months: schoolwork (77%), finding a job (61%), and, goals/dreams for their future (52%). (See Table 5 for complete list of topics and results)
- One in two respondents reported having contact with a Boston police officer during the previous year, while one in three reported contact with the MBTA police. 40% of those who reported contact with MBTA police said they were always or mostly treated with respect; 36% said they never were. 43% of those who reported contact with Boston police said they were always or

mostly treated with respect; 30% said they never were. Males had more negative types of contact than females with both police forces and were much less likely to feel they were treated with respect. Older teens were also much less likely than younger teens to feel they were treated with respect.

Friends and Peers

- Two in five teens reported having received training as a peer leader or educator.
- There were only five topics out of 25 that at least half of all teens reported talking about with friends during the prior six months: relationships (71%), finding a job (69%), school work (58%), body piercing/tattoos (56%) and dreams/goals for the future (51%). (See Table 6 for complete list of topics and results.) These topics were also among the six highest topics reported by teens in the 1998 Youth Survey.
- Nearly half of all respondents reported that most of their friends live all over the Boston area; only one-quarter reported that most lived in their neighborhood.

Emotional Well-Being

- 60% of all teen respondents reported feeling hopeful for their future during the prior month all, most or a lot of the time. Summer job teens were somewhat more likely than summer school teens to report feeling that way.
- More than one in four teens (27%) reported feeling depressed during the prior month all, most or a lot of the time. Summer school, female, older, Asian and Multi-racial, and immigrant teens were more likely than their respective counterparts to report frequent feelings of depression.

Safety

- The vast majority of teens felt safe in a variety of locations, ranging from 95% in their home to 67% in the MBTA. 80% overall felt safe in their school, especially P/M/C teens (90%).
- Three out of four teens said they had witnessed some type of violence during the previous year; 40% witnessed violence in their schools.
- Nearly 70% of teens perceived gang activity as somewhat or very serious in their neighborhood; nearly 60% in their school. Cape Verdean teens were most likely of any of the racial/ethnic groups to view gang activity as very serious in both their school and neighborhood.
- Most teens believe there is a drug problem in their school and neighborhood. Marijuana was perceived as, by far, the drug causing the most problems in both locations.

Health

- 77% of the respondents reported having health insurance coverage; 5% did not and 19% weren't sure. 82% of the summer job teens reported being covered, more than the 74% in 1999.

- Nearly one in four respondents (23%) reported that they had ever been diagnosed with asthma by a doctor. Of those, nearly two in three (63%) reported still having asthma, meaning that about one in seven teens surveyed had active cases of asthma. 13% responded that they didn't know their asthma status.
- Only three in ten respondents reported attending a prevention class in the previous year.

Demographic Group Highlights

- The acculturation process for immigrant youth is very evident by looking at the differing results among recent immigrant, longer-term immigrant, and U.S.-born teens. Recent immigrant teens showed the most distinct pattern of all the demographic groups, while longer-term immigrant teens were often closer in their responses to the U.S.-born teens. Recent immigrant teens did better in school, did more homework, attended school more frequently, and came to school tired less often than teens from the other two groups. They were more closely monitored by their parents, and they were the only one of all the demographic groups that talked more to their parents than to their friends about a variety of topics. They exhibited a social isolation by reporting that they were more likely to go home alone and less likely to hang out with friends after school, as well as being far less likely than any demographic group to talk with friends about a variety of topics. They also felt less safe, even though they witnessed less violence than the other two groups.
- Teens who self-identified as Bi- or Multi-racial appear to be at greater risk than their counterparts. They had more contact, especially negative contact, with both the MBTA and Boston police. They were more likely to report witnessing more violence. They were less likely to report feeling hopeful about their future and were more likely to report frequent feelings of depression. They were less likely to report being monitored or to eat dinner with at least one of their parents. They missed more school, especially because of trouble at home. They also, however, were more likely to talk with their parents and their friends, particularly about risk-related topics.

INTRODUCTION

The third Boston Youth Survey was conducted in the summer of 2000 as a way of continuing to gather vital information about the status of youth for the *Citywide Strategy for Youth Development* project, initiated by Mayor Menino and his Office of Community Partnerships, under the direction of Juanita Wade, also chief of the city's Human Services Cabinet. In 1998, when the project began, there were insufficient data measuring the assets, or strengths, of young people in Boston, of younger, middle school-age teens, and of teens not in the public schools. Thus, a new survey was developed and administered through the Mayor's Youth Summit and over 30 community-based organizations. A report of that first survey was issued in the fall of 1998.

It was the intent of this project to survey youth in a similar manner on a regular basis, so as to have the tools to measure our progress as a city in improving the lives of our youth. In the summer of 1999, the survey was revised for content and administration, based on the previous year's experience. Questions were added to obtain new data around some of the key issues, like mental health, that had emerged through the assessment process of the *Citywide Strategy for Youth Development* over the previous year. City departments, like police, schools, and arts, were also offered the opportunity to have a few questions added to help them in their programming. Concurrently, some questions from the first survey were removed with the intent of rotating them into subsequent surveys.

The administration of the survey was also simplified, reaching young people at summer job sites, which made for a broader sample than the previous year. Additional sites, like the Department of Youth Services programs, were chosen in order to further broaden the sample to include more "high-risk" youth. This method of administration, however, did not allow us to continue to survey teens under the age of 14. The 1998 and 1999 surveys each reached a sample of nearly 1,000 teens.

This 2000 survey was similarly revised for content and administration. The major change was the inclusion of Boston Public Schools' summer school teens, both those participating in the 8th grade transition classes and those in the high school program. There were two major results of this change: the sample size more than doubled to over 2,200 teens, and the survey reached a broader part of the teen population.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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This project was overseen and this report was written and edited by Jerry Mogul, MS in Public Health, Deputy Director for Planning and Research in the Office of Community Partnerships. John Harris, EdM, of JT Harris Consulting Associates, wrote and edited sections of the report, provided valuable data analysis, and produced the charts. Mary Ostrem, Eleni Digenis-Bury and John Harris were most generous with their time and expertise in suggesting final edits to this report.

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SURVEY SAMPLE

A total of 2,285 valid surveys were analyzed. 58% of them were summer school teens. (*See Table 1 in the Appendix for the source of the survey returns.*) A random sampling (by classroom) of the population was only attempted with the 8th grade transition summer school sample; for all other sites, a broad representation of teens was sought.

All the survey questions were analyzed by whether the teens were from the summer job or summer school sample, as well by the following demographic groupings: age, gender, ethnicity, school status, neighborhood and length of time lived in the United States for the total sample. These independent variables are grouped and defined as follows, as they are used in the report:

Gender: Male and female

Age: 13-14 (most were 14), 15-16, 17-18

<i>Ethnicity:</i>	Asian, Black (includes African-American and Caribbean), Cape Verdean, Latino, Bi- or Multi-racial, and White.
<i>School:</i>	Boston Public School (BPS) student; private/METCO/charter (P/M/C) school student; and “other school” teen, which includes alternative school student, out-of-school working, out-of-school not working, GED student, and “other.”
<i>Time in US:</i>	U.S.-born, recent immigrant (lived in US four years or less), longer-term immigrant (lived in US more than four years).
<i>Neighborhood:</i>	Data were analyzed only for those neighborhoods with a sample size of 80 or more: East Boston, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Roxbury, Roslindale, South End, and four Dorchester areas based on zip codes – Grove Hall (02121); Fields Corner (02122); Codman Square, Four Corners, Neponset, Cedar Grove, Lower Mills, and Franklin Field/Franklin Hill (02124); and Uphams Corner (02125).

A demographic profile of the sample, compared to the population as a whole, reveals the following characteristics (*see Table 2 in Appendix*):

- More heavily weighted toward teens attending BPS, because of the preponderance of summer school teens.
- Evenly divided between male and female.
- Most of the teens were 14-17 years old; each age group containing between 18-22% of the sample. 12% of the sample was 18 years old, and the “other” 7% were most likely to be 19-21 year olds. Only 3.5% of the respondents were 13 years old.
- The percentage of teens in the six racial/ethnic categories analyzed in this survey was fairly close to the 2000 US Census distribution for Boston of 0-18 year olds (although no Census data is available yet for Cape Verdean teens), except for White teens who were somewhat under-represented in the sample (18.6% vs. 25.4%).
- The sample of 25% immigrant teens is probably somewhat lower than the general population, but that won’t be known until the 2000 Census figures are available. About 36% of Boston Public School students are in families where English is not the primary language, but there is probably a lower proportion among families who send their children to private, METCO or charter schools.
- Compared to the distribution of 0-18 year olds in the 2000 US Census, the survey sample over-represented Dorchester teens (36% vs. 22%) and under-represented Roxbury teens (10% vs. 16%). Other neighborhoods were within a margin of two to three percentage points of the Census figures.
- The survey asked teens their sexual orientation. 3% of teens identified as gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgender, too small a sample to analyze. An additional 6% said they weren’t sure if they were straight or GLBT.

In the text of this report, responses from the overall sample are provided for every question, as well as any differences between the two major samples: *summer school* and *summer job* teens. In understanding the nature of those differences, it is vitally important to understand the different demographic profile of each group (see Table 3 in Appendix), as those differences may explain, in whole or in part, different results between the two samples. Among the highlights are the following:

- The summer school teens were older and the summer jobs teens younger.
- The summer school sample had a considerably higher proportion of Latino teens and a lower proportion of White teens; conversely, the summer job sample had the opposite.
- The summer school teens were more likely to be BPS teens, and the summer job teens were more likely to be P/M/C teens.
- The summer school sample had a higher proportion of immigrant teens.

There are also some important differences among the demographic profiles of the other independent variables, including the following:

- The 17-18 year old teens were less likely to be White teens.
- BPS teens were more likely than P/M/C teens to be Black (36% vs. 23%), Latino (23% vs. 7%) and immigrant (28% vs. 10%).
- On the other hand, P/M/C teens were far more likely than BPS teens to be White (50% vs. 14%), and were somewhat more likely to be younger.
- At times, this report divides the BPS sample into summer job and summer school populations for purpose of analysis. In that case, the racial/ethnic difference that was evident between the overall BPS sample and the P/M/C sample was still there, but not as strong. When comparing the BPS summer job and P/M/C samples, the percentage of Black teens in each population was about the same, but differences were still evident, though less so, among White and Latino teens.
- The “other school” teens were more likely to be older, Multi-racial, and GLBT/not sure.
- Two out of five Asian teens were immigrants, mostly longer-term.
- Cape Verdean teens were older than other racial/ethnic groups, and more likely to be female (59%). Nearly half (48%) were immigrants, and half of those were recent immigrants. They were more likely than their counterparts to attend BPS (92%).
- 40% of Latino respondents were immigrant teens, mostly longer-term. They were more likely than their counterparts to attend BPS (91%).
- A higher proportion of Multi-racial teens than other racial/ethnic groups were “other school” and GLBT/not sure.
- White teens were younger than the sample of other racial/ethnic groups.

- Immigrant teens were older than U.S.-born teens. Nearly one in five of the Black teen sample was an immigrant, while one in four of the immigrant sample was a Black teen.
- There were no major differences in the underlying demographic profiles of males and females.

ANALYSIS OF THE DATA - CAVEATS

1. The two major samples comprising this survey come from summer school and summer job teens. Nearly six in ten came from the summer school sample. However, as it is not known what proportion of all Boston teens “should” be in summer school, the “total” results are likely skewed toward the summer school sample results. Therefore, the data are reported as much as possible comparing the two samples. Where the results are similar, there is greater confidence that the results might be representative of Boston teens (although see #2 below). Where there are differences in the results, differences in the underlying demographic structure (*see Table 3 in Appendix*) are examined to determine whether they explain in part the apparent differences in the results. (see #3 below) However, in some respects, those demographic differences are themselves an important finding which shouldn’t be used to “explain away” differences between summer job and summer school teens.

2. The teens comprising the respondents to this survey were not drawn at random, and in some cases their distribution across subgroups does not match that of Boston’s overall teen population. This is especially true of the racial/ethnic distribution in the two major samples: summer school and summer job. (*See Table 4*) Therefore, it is not possible to generalize the survey results to the larger population of Boston teens.

3. Apparent differences between subgroups sometimes may be attributable to underlying demographic factors (see p. 7 above). For instance, apparent differences between summer job and summer school youth often pertain more to differences in age than to factors related specifically to being in a summer job or in summer school. These mitigating factors are reported in the text or in footnotes as “explaining in part” the apparent differences. However, without a statistical multi-variate analysis that controlled for the demographic differences, no conclusive statements of significance can be made.

In the absence of statistical testing of significance, usually only differences of at least 7 percentage points between demographic groups are reported. Terms to explain differences such as “somewhat”, “more”, and “considerably” are used; the term “significant” is never used.

4. Comparisons with the 1999 sample are only made with the 2000 summer job sample, since the 1999 survey did not include summer school teens. Both samples were similar in size. Their underlying demographic structure had some minor variations, but was mostly similar. (*see Table 3*)

5. Each question had a number of respondents who did not answer. The number of missing responses ranged from 43 to 423 on each question. Most questions had 85 to 125 missing responses on average, though there was a cluster of questions in the low to mid-200s and a cluster in the low to mid-300s. When conducting a demographic group analysis, the percentage of missing responses was even higher, as they combined both those who didn’t answer the particular question with those who didn’t answer the demographic question. While there is concern that the percentage of missing responses is high in

some cases, there is no clear pattern as to which teens didn't answer certain questions, so no conclusions can be drawn which would affect the interpretation of any of the results.

6. This report focuses primarily on highlighting instances of *differences* between subgroups. It should be noted that, though more difficult to identify, the absence of differences also could constitute a noteworthy finding. In general, if a demographic group – gender or age, for example – is not mentioned in the text, it likely means that there is no difference to report.

7. In a few instances, responses to one question, or variable – school performance, for instance – are related to responses to other variables in the survey – not eating breakfast, for instance – to determine whether there is a relationship between the two sets of youth behavior or status. When such a relationship between two variables is found, it does not mean that it is causal; that is, one cannot assume that one variable causes another.

In spite of the methodological limitations of this survey, it provides very rich and useful data. A number of questions show consistency in the answers from previous surveys. Much of the data analysis show results and trends that one would expect - for example, older teens were far more likely to work after school than younger teens. These results and trends inspire some confidence as to the validity of the overall survey response.

The report that follows contains highlights of the survey results. An exhaustive analysis of all the questions and variables is beyond the scope of this report. However, more detailed information and data for any particular question are available upon request to Jerry Mogul at the Office of Community Partnerships, 617-635-3140.

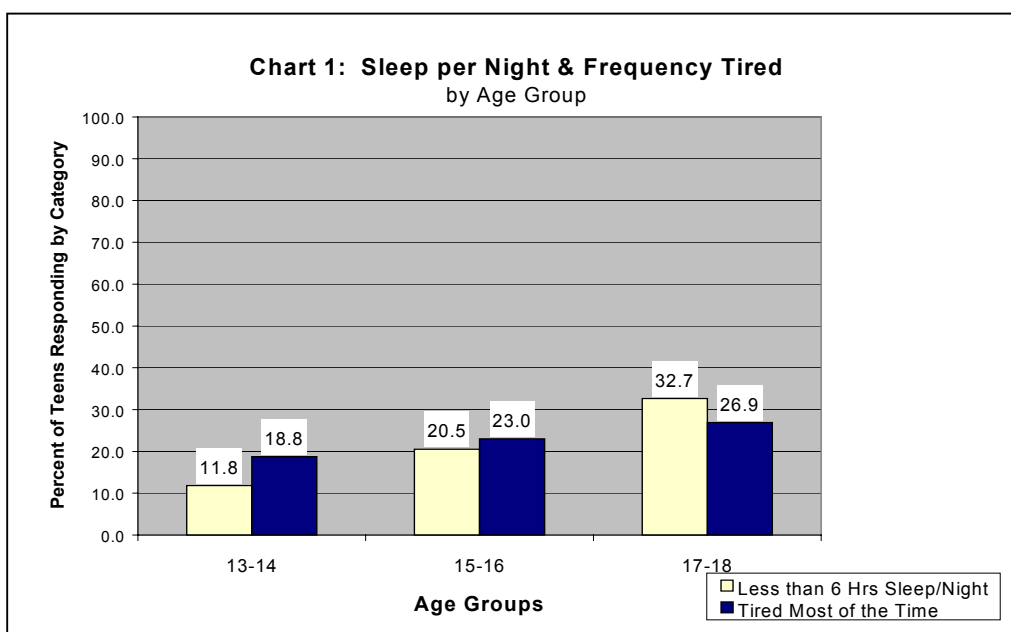
SCHOOL AND LITERACY

1. Sleep and Breakfast (Q3-5)

- Nearly one in four teens reported coming to school with less than six hours of sleep per night. A similar proportion came to school feeling tired most or all of the time.
- Nearly half (45%) did not eat breakfast before they came to school.
- There were few differences between summer job and summer school teens.
- There was a relationship between self-reported grades and all three indicators: those reporting getting D's and F's were about twice as likely as those reporting getting A's and B's to get less than 6 hours of sleep, come to school tired most or all of the time, and not eat breakfast.

Demographic group analysis:

- The number of teens reporting that they got less than 6 hours of sleep per night increased with each age group (12% vs. 21% vs. 33%), as did the number of teens reporting that they arrived at school tired most or all of the time (19% vs. 23% vs. 27%). (see Chart 1) However, there were no differences among the age groups of teens who didn't eat breakfast before class.



- BPS teens were less likely to report eating breakfast most or all of the time before class than P/M/C teens (16% vs. 26%)¹.

¹ In part because BPS teens were somewhat older.

- Multi-racial teens were the most likely racial/ethnic group to report getting less than six hours of sleep per night (35% vs. range of 21-27%).
- Recent immigrant teens reported being more likely than U.S.-born or longer-term immigrant teens to get 8+ hours of sleep per night (31% vs. 20%, 20%) and to “never” feel tired at school (21% vs. 13%, 10%). They were less likely to report “never” eating breakfast before class (34% vs. 47%, 44%).

2. Homework (Q6-7)

- 84% of teens reported being assigned homework most or all days.
- 45% reported spending more than one hour each day working on their homework; 52% spent less than one hour.
- Summer job teens were more likely than summer school teens to spend more than one hour (55% vs. 38%).
- There was a strong correlation between amount of time spent on homework and reported grades.

Demographic group analysis:

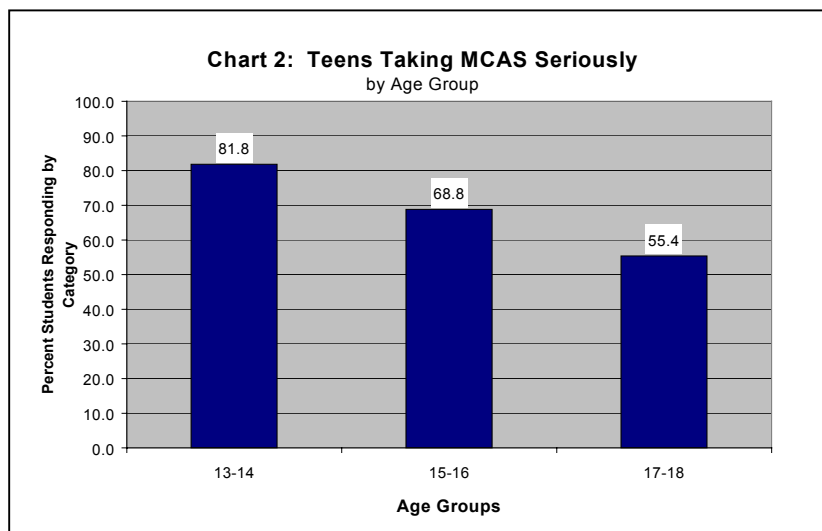
- A greater proportion of P/M/C teens (66%) reported being assigned homework daily than did BPS summer job teens (55%) or BPS summer school teens (47%). That difference disappears when combined with those reporting getting homework assignments most of the time.
- Time spent on homework:
 - A greater proportion of P/M/C teens (60%) than BPS teens (42%) reported spending more than one hour a day doing their homework. That difference is lessened when comparing P/M/C teens with BPS summer job teens (54%).
 - Asian teens reported spending substantially more time per night on homework than teens of other races/ethnicities: they were more likely to report spending over three hours (21% vs. range of 6-10%); and, they were more likely to report spending more than one hour (75% vs. range of 37-51%).
 - Recent immigrant teens reported being more likely than U.S.-born or longer-term immigrant teens to spend more than one hour a day on homework (57% vs. 43%, 44%).
 - Females reported being somewhat more likely than males to do more than one hour of homework per day (49% vs. 42%)

3. MCAS (Q8-10)

- Of those who took the MCAS exam, 39% felt it was too hard, while 6% felt it was too easy.
- A greater proportion of summer school teens (43%) than summer job teens (33%) felt the test was too hard.²
- About 70% of those who took the MCAS reported taking it seriously.

Demographic group analysis:

- Perceived difficulty of the MCAS:
 - 17-18 year-olds were more likely than younger teens to report finding the test “too hard” (48% vs. 35%, 39%).
 - Longer-term immigrant teens were more likely than U.S.-born or recent immigrant teens to report finding the test “too hard” (47% vs. 38%, 35%).
- 13-14 year-old teens who took the MCAS were more likely to report taking it seriously than 15-16 or 17-18 year olds. (See Chart 2)



4. Grades (Q12)

- 18% of teens reported getting A's/B's, 13% D's/F's
- 31% of summer job teens reported getting A's/B's compared to 8% of summer school teens. Similarly, 48% of summer job teens reported getting B's/C's compared to 33% of summer school teens.

² Due in part to differences in the age structures between the two samples, and in results by age (see Demographic group Analysis).

Demographic group analysis:

- P/M/C teens were much more likely than BPS teens to report getting A's/B's (30% vs. 15%), but there was no difference between P/M/C teens and BPS summer job teens.
- Asian (30%), White (27%), and Cape Verdean (26%) teens were more likely than Multi-racial (15%), Black (13%), and Latino (11%), teens to report getting A's/B's.³
- Females reported being more likely than males to report getting A's and B's or B's and C's (61% vs. 50%).
- Teens were more likely to report getting grades lower than B's/C's as they got older (35% vs. 44% vs. 50%).
- Twice as many recent immigrant teens reported getting A's/B's as longer-term immigrant and U.S.-born teens (33% vs. 14%, 16%).

School Attendance/Ttruancy (Q13, 14)

- 23% of the total sample reported not missing any school days for reasons other than being sick; 49% missed from one to six days, and the rest missed seven or more days.
- Summer job teens were less likely than summer school teens to miss days not due to sickness.⁴
- The major reason for missing those school days was "not caring" about school (23%), followed by family vacation (15%), trouble at home (13%), trouble with teachers (11%), trouble with other teens (9%), having to care for younger siblings (9%) and feeling unsafe (5%).
- Summer school teens were somewhat more likely than summer job teens to report missing days because of trouble with teachers (14% vs. 7%) or trouble at home (16% vs. 9%); they were less likely to miss school because of family vacation (12% vs. 19%).⁵
- There was a strong relationship between getting lower grades and missing more than seven days for reasons other than sickness.

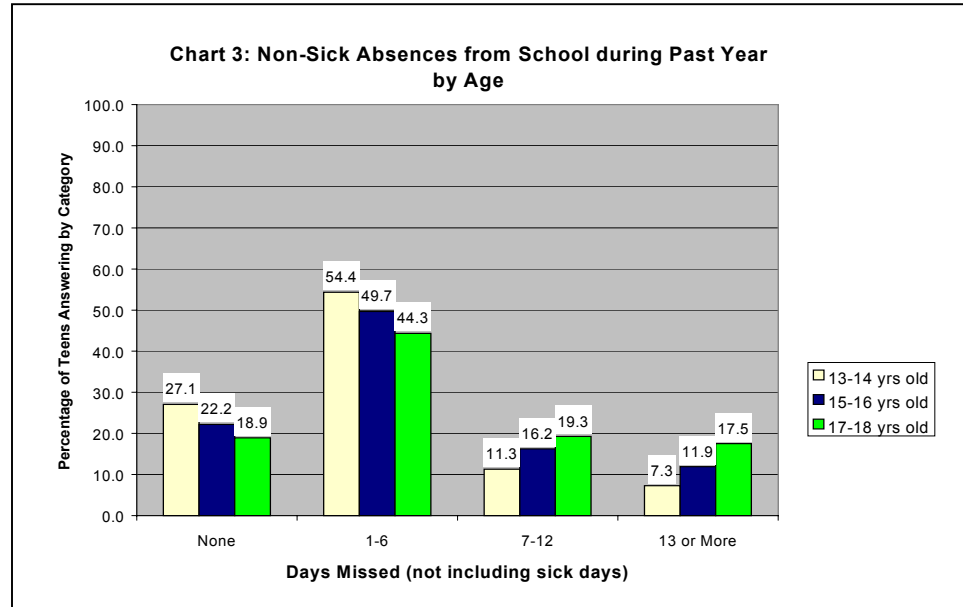
Demographic group analysis:

- The younger teens were more likely to report being absent fewer than seven days, while older teens were more likely to report being absent seven days or more during the previous year (*See Chart 3 next page*).

³These differences may be due part to the higher proportion of the latter groups in the summer school sample, and to the high proportion of Cape Verdean teens who were recent immigrants (who were more likely to get higher grades).

⁴ Due, in part to age differences between the two samples.

⁵ Due in part to a higher proportion of younger teens and White teens in the summer job sample; both groups also had a higher rate of missing school due to family vacations.



- BPS summer job teens reported a better attendance record than BPS summer school teens and had a similar attendance record to that of P/M/C teens.
- Teens from three racial groups tended to deviate from the norm for missing fewer than 7 days (72%): Multi-racial (59%) and Latino (66%) reported being less likely; while Cape Verdean teens (86%) reported being more likely.⁶
- Of those who missed school because they “didn’t care”, Multi-racial, Asian, “other school” and White teens had rates of 29% or more, while responses of teens from other racial/ethnic subgroups ranged from 18%-21%.
- 37% of recent immigrant teens reported missing no days; of those who did, only 9% missed because they didn’t care about school, but 17% missed because of trouble with other teens.
- White teens (23%) were most likely of the racial/ethnic groups to report missing school because of family vacations (23% vs. range of 11-18%); similarly, younger teens were more likely than older teens (22% vs. 16% vs. 11%) to report missing school for this reason.
- More females than males missed school because of trouble at home (17% vs. 10%), and there were higher rates of Asian (22%), Latino (20%), and Multi-racial (17%) teens citing this reason compared to other racial/ethnic subgroups (range of 8-11%).

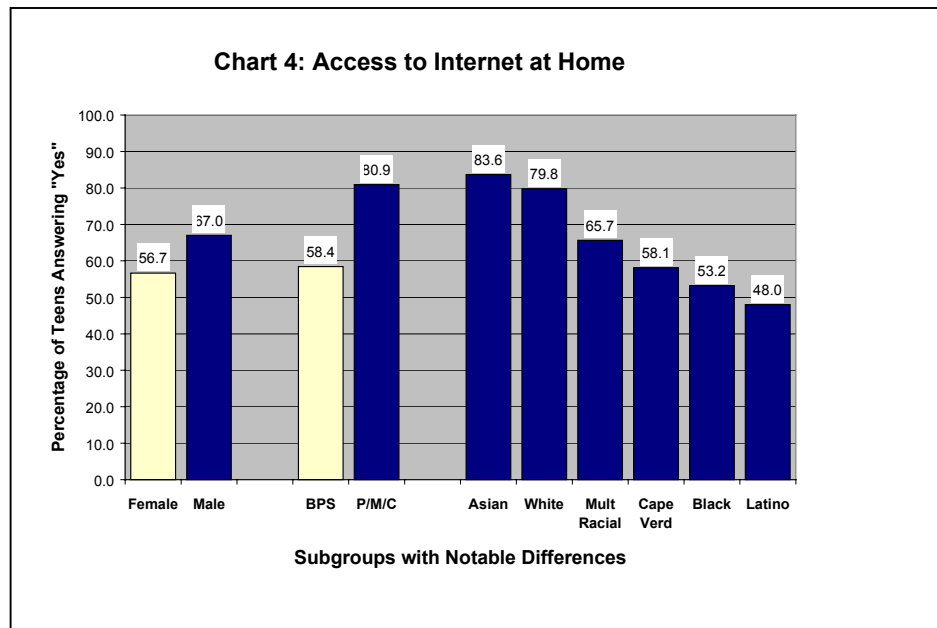
⁶ In part due to the high proportion who reported being recent immigrants.

Internet/Computer Access (Q17, 21)

- 61% of teens reported having access to the Internet at home; 87% had access at school and 82% at a public library. About half had access at a Boston Community Center.
- A greater proportion of summer job teens (68%) than summer school teens (57%) reported access at home.⁷
- Compared to 1999, Internet access at home increased (58% to 68%).
- Nearly three in ten teens had a computer in their bedroom.

Demographic group analysis:

- Males reported having access to the Internet at home with greater frequency than females (67% vs. 57%). (See Chart 4)
- Also, evidence of a “digital divide” was found between Asian and White teens, on the one hand, and the other racial/ethnic groups, on the other. (See Chart 4)
- There were few differences reported on Internet access through school, library and community center, except for recent immigrant teens (65%) who reported far less access in a library than either longer-term immigrant teens (81%) or U.S.-born teens (85%).



⁷ Due in part to the different racial/ethnic composition of the two samples and differences in results reported in the Demographic Group Analysis.

- Among neighborhoods, teens in the South End (61%) had the greatest access to the Internet at a Boston Community Center; East Boston teens had the least (30%) access.
- Having a computer in their bedroom:
 - Males were more likely than females (34% vs. 25%)
 - Asian teens were much more likely than any other racial/ethnic group (53% vs. range of 26-33%).

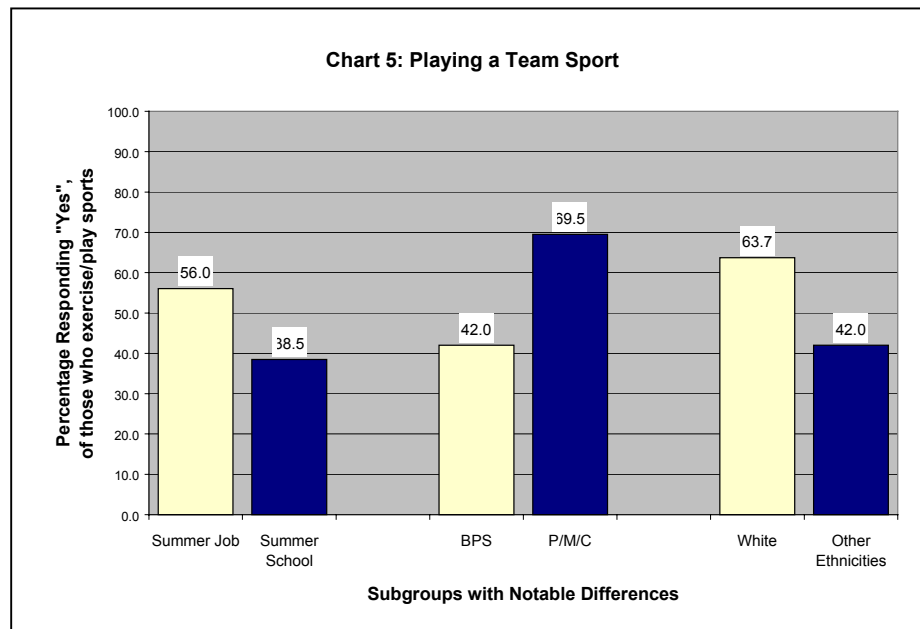
OUT-OF-SCHOOL AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Sports/Exercise (Q1-2)

- Similar to 1999, and with little difference between summer school and summer job teens, 78% reported regular exercise or sports activity.
- Of those teens who reported regular exercise or sports activity, 46% reported playing organized team sports. Summer job teens (56%) were considerably more likely to report doing so than summer school teens (39%).⁸

Demographic group analysis:

- Younger teens were more likely than older teens to report regular exercise/sports (84% vs. 80% vs. 72%). Males were much more likely to report exercising or playing sports regularly than females (89% vs. 68%).
- For those teens reporting regular exercise, there were some substantial differences in reported frequencies of participation in team sports: males were more likely than females (52% vs. 38%); older teens slightly less than younger teens (42% vs. 49%); and White teens were much more likely than any other racial/ethnic group (64% vs. range of 35%-46%) (*see Chart 5*)



⁸ In part because of differences in age and race/ethnic composition of the two samples and differences in results reported in the Demographic Group Analysis.

Screen time (Q18-20)

- One in four of all teens reported spending six hours or more a day watching TV, playing video games, or on the Internet for fun; 44% spent four or more hours a day.⁹
- Most of that time appeared to be spent on TV or video games, as only 12% spent more than four hours on the Internet for fun; over half spent less than one hour or no time on the Internet for fun.
- 76% of all teen respondents reported having a TV in their room.
- There was little difference in time spent on the Internet for fun between this sample and the 1999 sample.
- There were few differences between summer job and summer school teens in any of these responses, with the exception of more summer school than summer job teens spending no time on the Internet for fun (33% vs. 24%).¹⁰

Demographic group analysis:

- Combined screen time:
 - Males were more likely than females to report spending six or more hours daily (29% vs. 20%).
 - 13-14 year olds were more likely to report spending 6+ hours than 15-16 or 17-18 year-olds (34% vs. 22%, 22%) and were the least likely to report spending less than two hours (26% vs. 32% vs. 39%).
 - Multi-racial teens were most likely of the racial/ethnic demographic groups (35% vs. range of 20-26%) to spend six or more hours daily. Cape Verdean teens were the most likely to report spending less than two hours daily (48% vs. range of 26-39%).¹¹
 - Recent immigrant teens were more likely than U.S.-born or longer-term immigrant teens to report spending fewer than two hours per day (48% vs. 33%, 34%)
- Time spent just on the Internet for fun:
 - There were few differences between racial/ethnic subgroups in their frequency of reporting more than four hours per day; however, reflecting somewhat the previously reported “digital divide”, Black, Latino and Cape Verdean teens were more likely to report no time on the Internet for fun (30%-34%) than the other racial/ethnic groups.

⁹ The 1999 Youth Survey Report concluded that a much higher percentage of teens than is reported in this survey watched TV, etc. more than six hours a day. That difference can be attributed to the fact that the question was not asked directly as it was in this survey. In the 1999 survey, the question was asked separately of each of the activities - watching TV, playing video games and using the Internet for fun – and then combined statistically into one “screen time” answer. Because this question is asked directly, these results should be considered more accurate than the 1999 survey results.

¹⁰ That difference could be explained in part by the “digital divide” described on pp. 16-17.

¹¹ In part because they are more likely to be older and recent immigrants.

- TV in room:
 - Asian teens (who reported the highest rate of computers in their rooms) reported the lowest rate of TVs in their room (45% vs. average of 76%); Black and Multi-racial youth reported the highest rates (84%, 86%).
 - A higher proportion of U.S.-born teens (80%) than immigrant teens reported having a TV in their room, but even among recent immigrant teens, 63% had their own TV.

After-school destinations (Q26-27)

- Nearly half (47%) of teens reported most frequently spending their after-school time in unstructured and unsupervised ways: hanging out with friends (26%) or going home alone (22%). Only 13% attended a school- or community-based program. (*see Chart 6 next page*)
- Summer school teens were much more likely than summer job teens to most frequently go to work after school (25% vs. 10%).¹²
- On the other hand, summer job teens were more likely than summer school teens (19% vs. 8%) to most frequently attend a school or community-based program.¹³
- Teens spent any amount of time after-school in the following ways: 66% hanging out with friends, 53% going home alone, 35% attending a school-or community-based program, 35% working, 30% going home to their parents, 14% taking care of their siblings, and 9% staying with relatives.
- The only differences between summer school and summer job teens as to how they spend any amount of time after school were similar to the two noted above: going to work (44% vs. 20%) and attending a school or community-based program (27% vs. 47%).
- Hanging out with friends after-school was related to grades: 34% of those reporting D's/F's vs. 16% of those reporting A's/B's reported hanging out with their friends.
- Attending a school/community program was also related to grades: 23% reporting A's/B's vs. 5% reporting D's/F's attended such a program.¹⁴

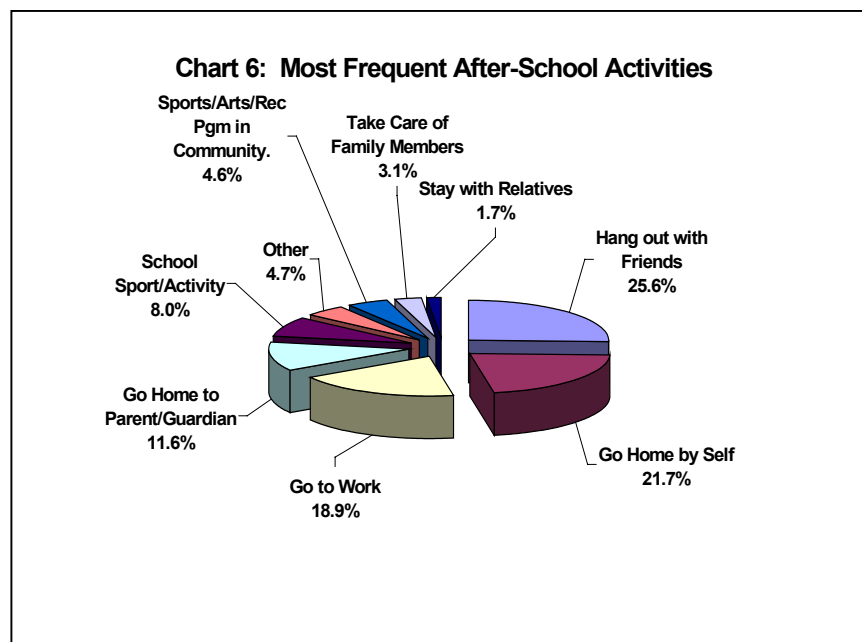
Demographic group analysis:

- Older teens were less likely than younger teens to report most frequently going home by themselves or to parents after school (41% vs. 33% vs. 26%).
- Asian teens reported being more likely than other racial/ethnic subgroups to most frequently go home alone (31% vs. range of 16-23%). Recent and longer-term immigrant teens (30%, 27%) were more likely to report than U.S.-born teens (19%) that they most frequently went home alone.

¹² Due in part to their being older.

¹³ Due in part to race/ethnicity differences in those two populations.

¹⁴ This relationship can be explained in part by the higher proportion of White than Latino teens who attend such programs and who also report having higher grades.



- There were several demographic group differences related to the reporting of most frequently “hanging out with friends” after school:
 - White teens were more likely to report doing so than other racial subgroups (37% vs. range of 18-28%)¹⁵
 - The reported likelihood of hanging out with friends after school increased with time spent in the US (10% vs. 23% vs. 29%).
 - 17-18 year-olds were less likely to report doing so than 13-14 or 15-16 year-olds (19% vs. 32%, 29%)
- The likelihood of working most frequently after school dramatically increases with age (4% vs. 15% vs. 34%).
- The likelihood of most frequently reporting attendance at a formal after-school program:
 - Latino teens were the least likely (8%) and White teens the most likely (19%).
 - P/M/C teens were more likely than BPS teens (21% vs. 12%), in part because of the racial/ethnic differences cited above. However, there was no difference between P/M/C teens and BPS summer job teens in spite of racial/ethnic group differences in those two populations.
 - Dorchester 02122 had the highest rate of teens most frequently attending an after-school program (23%), while Mattapan and other Dorchester teens had the lowest (8%).

¹⁵ This may be explained in part by their tending to be younger.

- Combining responses to Q26 and Q27 reveals a more complete picture of after-school destinations, not just the most frequent ones. Some of the highlights of this combined analysis are the following:
 - Asian and recent immigrant teens were most likely to go home alone (65%), while White teens were most likely to hang out with friends (81%). Recent immigrant teens were least likely to hang out with friends, even part of the time (37%).
 - 35% of all respondents attend some type of school- or community-based after school activity. But there were considerable differences among some of the demographic groups: P/M/C (53%) vs. BPS (34%) vs. “Other school” (36%); summer school (27%) vs. summer job (47%); BPS summer school (26%) vs. BPS summer job (49%). These differences can be explained to some extent by a higher White rate (47%) and a lower Latino rate (23%). The age differential was not as great.

Volunteer work or community service (Q47)

- 44% of teens reported doing some sort of community service or volunteer work over the prior six months.
- Summer job teens were more likely than summer school teens to report doing so (52% vs. 38%).¹⁶
- The frequency of teens indicating that they performed volunteer work or community service was lower in 2000 than in the 1999 sample (52% vs. 60%).

Demographic group analysis:

- White and Asian teens reported the highest rates of any racial subgroup (both 50%), while Latino teens reported the lowest rate (35%).
- There was also a greater reported frequency of P/M/C than BPS (53% vs. 43%) teens, in part because of a similar difference in the race/ethnic composition of the two groups. However, there was no difference between P/M/C and BPS summer job teens.
- “Other school” teens had a lower rate of 37%.
- U.S.-born teens (46%) were more likely than recent (34%) or longer-term immigrant (39%) teens to report volunteer work or community service.

¹⁶ In part because of differences in the racial/ethnic composition of the two samples.

ADULTS IN THEIR LIVES

Parents they live with (Q57)

- 84% of teen respondents reported living with their mothers or female guardians – with little difference between summer job and summer school samples.
- 45% reported living with their fathers or male guardians, with summer job teens (50%) more likely to do so than summer school teens (41%).¹⁷
- 48% reported living with a single parent, 40% with two parents, 6% with just a grandparent or other relative, and 7% in some other arrangement.¹⁸

Demographic group analysis:

- 67% of “other school” and of recent immigrant, 77% of Cape Verdean, and 74% of Multi-racial teens reported living with a female parent (i.e., mother or guardian), lower than the average of 84%. Only 55% of recent immigrants lived with their mother, but an additional 12% lived with a female guardian, the highest percentage of any group.
- White (69%) and Asian (66%) teens were more likely to report living with their father or male guardian, while Black (33%) teens and recent immigrants (36%) were least likely. 10% of Multi-racial teens lived with a male guardian, the highest percentage of any group.

Parental involvement (Q11, 37, 38)

- The vast majority of teens (85%) – summer school and summer job teens alike – felt that success in school was very important to their parents.
- 42% of the respondents ate dinner with at least one parent five or more days a week, but the same percentage of teens reported eating with their parents only two days or less.
- Summer job teens were more likely than summer school teens to eat dinner with their parents five or more days a week (48% vs. 38%).¹⁹
- Over half of all respondents reported that their parents always or mostly monitored their whereabouts; only 11% reported that their parents rarely or never did.

¹⁷ In part because of the different racial/ethnic composition of the two samples.

¹⁸ No further analysis was done with any of the demographic groups comparing results based on family structure.

¹⁹ Due in part to the different age composition of the two samples.

Demographic group analysis:

- The vast majority of teens in all demographic groups felt that it was very important to their parents/guardians that they *succeed in school*. At the lowest end of the range were teens at “other schools”(75%), Asian and recent immigrant teens (78%), and Multi-racial teens (79%) who reported that it was very important to their parents/guardians. One in ten “other school” and Multi-racial teens felt that success in school was of very little or no importance to their parents/guardians.
- There was a strong trend by age of teens whose *parents eat dinner with them*: the youngest teens (53%) were more likely than 15-16 year-olds (40%) or 17-18 year-olds (34%) to report eating with their parents five or more days out of the week. Conversely, older teens were more likely to eat with their parents only two days or less per week (30% vs. 42% vs. 49%).
- Even though recent immigrant teens were likely to be older, 51% of them reported eating with their parents 5+ days/week, compared to 36% of longer-term immigrant and 42% of U.S.-born teens.
- Cape Verdean and White teens were the most likely to report that their parents were in the room during dinner at least 5 days in the previous week (53%, 50%).²⁰ The same statistic for Black and Multi-racial teens was much lower (36%, 31%). Cape Verdean and Asian youth most frequently reported eating with their parents every day (41%).
- As expected, older teens were less likely than younger teens to report that their parents always or mostly *monitored* their whereabouts (46% vs. 53% vs. 60%).
- Females (58%) were more likely than males (46%) to report always or mostly being monitored.
- Multi-racial teens were the least likely to report always or mostly being monitored of any racial/ethnic subgroup (44% vs. range of 49-57%)
- Recent immigrant teens (59%) reported always or mostly being monitored more often than U.S.-born teens (53%), in spite of the fact that they were older.

Talking with their parents (Q39)

- There were only three topics out of 25 for which at least half of all teens reported talking with their parents: schoolwork (77%); finding a job (61%); and goals/dreams for the future (52%) For 14 of the topics, between 24-47% of the teens reported talking to their parents. Finally, there were eight topics about which 17% or fewer of the teens reported talking with their parents; the fewest talked about suicide (8%). (*See Table 5 in Appendix for complete list of 25 topics and results*)
- There were very few differences between summer job and summer school teens around communication patterns with parents. Only two topics had a differential of over eight percentage points – dreams/goals for the future and place to live. For both of those topics, a greater percentage of summer school than summer job teens reported talking with their parents.²¹

²⁰ For White teens, this statistic is probably explained in part by their being younger. For Cape Verdean teens, it may be explained by the relatively high percentage of them who are recent immigrants.

²¹ Due in part to a different age composition of the two samples – older teens were more likely to talk about these topics.

Demographic group analysis:

- On average, females indicated that they talked with their parents more than males. Among racial/ethnic groups, Multi-racial and Latino teens were most likely, while Asian and Cape Verdean were least likely, to talk with their parents.
- U.S.-born teens were more likely than immigrant teens to report talking to their parents.
- Among the highlights from the analysis of the *individual topics*:
 - White teens were more likely than most other teens to report having had conversations with their parents about schoolwork (85%), sports and exercise (57%), body piercing/tattoos (48%), drugs (39%), drinking (43%), and body weight (34%).
 - Multi-racial teens were more likely than their counterparts to report having had conversations with their parents about body piercing/tattoos (45%), drugs (39%), safe sex/birth control (37%), pregnancy (34%), body weight (33%), death in the family (34%), joining a gang (19%), date rape (22%), sexual identity (15%), national/international issues (19%), and suicide (18%).
 - On average, Asian teens were less likely than other teens to report talking with their parents about most topics; exceptions included schoolwork, college, goals/dreams, creative activities, finding a place to live, religion, joining gangs, and local and national issues.
 - On average, recent immigrants reported talking with their parents less than their counterparts; exceptions included creative activities, AIDS, joining gangs, date rape, and sexual identity.

Contact with police (Q40-43)

- Only one in three teen respondents reported any contact with *MBTA police*, while one in two had some contact with the *Boston police*.
- Among the reasons respondents (of all teens, not just the ones who had contact) cited for the contact were: being present while others were questioned (15% BPD, 11% MBTA), stopped and searched (14%, 8%), stopped and questioned about a crime (14%, 10%), warned about something (12%, 10%), asked for directions or assistance (9%, 12%), and arrested (8%, 6%). 9% of teens knew a BPD youth service officer, while 6% attended a BPD prevention or sports program.
- 40% of those reporting contact with MBTA police said they were always or mostly treated with respect; 36% said they never were. 45% of those reporting contact with Boston police said they were always or mostly treated with respect; 30% said they never were.
- There was only one difference of note between the responses of summer school and summer job teens about any of these questions: summer job teens were more likely than summer school teens to report always or mostly being treated with respect by the Boston police (49% vs. 39%).²²

²² Due in part to differences in the age and racial/ethnic composition of the two samples.

Demographic group analysis:**MBTA police contact**

- Except for males being more likely than females to report being stopped and searched (13% vs. 2%), the most pronounced differences around types of contact were seen between teens of different races/ethnicities:
 - Multi-racial teens easily were the most likely of *any* subgroup to report having had contact (51%) and also were the most likely to report negative experiences for each of the following categories: 18% stopped and questioned, 20% warned, 15% arrested, 18% stopped and searched, and 15% witnessing others arrested or questioned.
 - 12% of Black teens reported being stopped and questioned by MBTA police, compared to the lower range of 5%-6% of Asian, Latino and White teens.
 - White teens (12%) reported being warned by MBTA police more often compared to the lower range of Latino, Cape Verdean or Asian teens (5%-8%).
 - A very low proportion of Latino and Cape Verdean teens reported being arrested (3%-4%) or being stopped and searched (4%-5%) by MBTA police.
 - There was some variation by neighborhood, although the number of teens reporting any single type of contact was too small to make valid comparisons, with the exception of 19% of teens from the South End who reported being stopped and questioned about a crime.
- Males (32%) were less likely than females (46%) to report feeling respected most or all of the time.
- Older teens were less likely than younger teens to report feeling respected most or all of the time (33% vs. 40% vs. 47%).
- Multi-racial teens, who reported having had the most contact with MBTA police, were the least likely of any racial/ethnic group to report feeling respected by them all or most of the time (28%) and most likely to report never feeling respected (47%).²³
- Neighborhood samples were too small to report differences from the overall total.

Boston police contact:

- As with the MBTA, males generally had more negative experiences than females with Boston police, particularly around being stopped and searched (23% vs. 5%), but also with regard to being questioned about a crime (18% vs. 8%) and, to a lesser extent, being arrested (11% vs. 5%).

²³ There only 53 respondents in that sample.

- Other variations among the demographic groups around types of contact included:
 - Multi-racial teens reported having the most contact (64%) and were more likely than any other subgroup of teens to have been stopped and questioned (23%), warned (22%), arrested (17%), and stopped and searched (23%).
 - Cape Verdean and Multi-racial teens were most likely of their counterparts to know a youth service officer (15%, 13%).
 - Other relatively high levels of contact reported with the BPD included: Black teens witnessing others getting arrested or questioned (18%) and being stopped and searched themselves (16%), and White teens being warned (17%).
 - Particularly low rates of contact were reported by Asian youth: only 36% reported having had any contact; 4% knew their Youth Service Officer; 3% participated in a program; 3% had been arrested; and 8% had been stopped and searched or had witnessed an arrest or questioning of someone else.
 - While there were some differences among teens by neighborhood, most of them were too small to report, except for the following: teens from Roslindale were less likely to report being stopped and questioned about a crime (5%) and stopped and searched (6%); teens from Mattapan were more likely to report being stopped and searched (20%); and teens from Jamaica Plain were more likely to report being present while others were questioned or arrested (21%).
- White teens were the most likely of their counterparts to feel respected most or all of the time (51%) and the least likely to never feel respected (22%).²⁴
- Males (37%) were less likely than females (50%) to report feeling respected most or all of the time, and more likely to report never feeling respected (36% vs. 21%).
- Older teens were less likely than younger teens to report feeling respected most or all of the time (33% vs. 46% vs. 53%), and more likely to never feeling respected (38% vs. 26% vs. 22%).
- Teens from Jamaica Plain and Roslindale felt most positive about how respectfully they were treated by the Boston police, whereas teens from the South End and Dorchester 02125 felt the most negative.

²⁴ This high White rate could be due in part to a higher rate among younger teens as reported in the Demographic Group Analysis.

FRIENDS AND PEERS

Trained as peer leaders (Q48)

- 41% of the teens reported that they had received training as a peer leader or educator.
- More summer job teens (45%) than summer school teens (38%) reported that they had received training as peer leaders/educators.²⁵

Demographic group analysis:

- Older teens were more likely to report having been trained as peer leaders than younger teens (46% vs. 42% vs. 33%).
- Recent immigrant teens were less likely to report being trained as peer leaders than longer-term immigrants or U.S.-born teens (30% vs. 40%, 42%);
- Black and Cape Verdean teens reported the highest percentage (45%-46%), while Asian and White teens (33%) reported the lowest.

Talking with their friends (Q49)

- At least half of all teens reported talking with friends about 5 of the 25 topics: relationships (71%), finding a job (69%), school work (58%), body piercing/tattoos (56%) and dreams/goals for the future (51%).²⁶ Six topics were cited by fewer than 20% of the teens, with the fewest reporting that they discussed national/international politics or social issues (11%). *(See Table 6 in Appendix for complete list of 25 topics and results)*
- While a higher percentage of summer school than summer job teens reported talking to their friends about a number of the topics, most of the differences could be explained in part by the different age composition (i.e., the older summer school teens talked more about such topics as finding a job, dreams/goals for future, safe sex/birth control, place to live). The two differences that couldn't be explained by the age composition or any other underlying demographic difference were family problems (44% vs. 35%) and carrying a weapon (30% vs. 24%). *(See Table 6)*

Demographic group analysis:

- Females reported talking to their peers at a higher rate than did males. They reported talking with friends much more than males (margin of more than 20 percentage points) on the following topics: relationships (82% vs. 61%), pregnancy (55% vs. 24%), family problems (54% vs. 28%), and body

²⁵ In spite of the different age compositions of the two groups.

²⁶ These were five of the six highest scoring topics reported by teens responding to the same question in the 1998 Boston Youth Survey.

piercing/tattoos (68% vs. 46%). They did so by margins of at least 10% on another five topics. Males reported talking with friends substantially more than females about only two topics: carrying weapons (34% vs. 22%) and playing sports/exercising (55% vs. 44%).

- Younger teens reported being less likely to talk with friends about most topics, with noticeable differences from 15-16 and 17-18 year-old teens on three of the 25 categories: finding a job (62% vs. 73%, 73%); pregnancy (30% vs. 41%, 47%); and, drinking (33% vs. 45%, 45%). Trends relating to age across the three groups were as follows (younger to older): finding a place to live (23% vs. 33% vs. 45%); college applications (18% vs. 31% vs. 47%); and safe sex/birth control (31% vs. 43% vs. 50%).
- Recent immigrant teens consistently reported being less likely to talk with friends, with differences in response rates of at least 10 percentage points from longer-term immigrant or U.S.-born teens on 12 of the 25 topics. The greatest differences applied to the following topics: relationships (51% vs. 70% vs. 75%); finding a job (51% vs. 68% vs. 72%); and, body piercing/tattoos (29% vs. 51% vs. 61%). The only topics in which they did not have a lower rate of communication were schoolwork, college applications, religion, AIDS and sexual identity.
- Similar to communication patterns with parents, Multi-racial and Latino teens reported the greatest average frequency among racial/ethnic groups of discussing topics with friends; Asian and Cape Verdean teens did so with the lowest frequency.
- White teens had a high rate of communication compared to their counterparts around the topics of drinking, drugs, body weight, body piercing/tattoos, and local political/social issues in spite of the fact that they tended to be younger, and communication rates around those topics increased with age. White teens also had a higher than average communication rate around the topics of relationships, suicide and sports/exercise.
- Multi-racial teens had particularly high levels of communication about body piercing/tattoos, drugs, drinking, finding a place to live, carrying weapons, religion/spirituality, joining a gang, suicide, AIDS, sexual identity, and local political/social issues.
- Asian teens generally had a lower rate of communication than their counterparts, except in areas of creative activities, national/international issues, college applications, and schoolwork.
- Latino teens had higher than average communication with their peers about family problems, AIDS, and college applications.

Comparing communication patterns between parents and friends (Q39, 49)

- As would be expected, teens in general reported talking more frequently to their friends than to their parents on many topics, with relationships (71% vs. 48%) and body piercings/tattoos (56% vs. 36%) showing the greatest absolute difference in that direction. There were a few that they discussed as frequently with parents, but only about schoolwork did they talk more with parents than with friends by more than a 2 percentage point difference. (*See Table 7 in Appendix*)

Demographic group analysis:

- Females reported talking with friends more often than they reported talking with parents by an even greater margin than was displayed by males.
- That difference in communication patterns with peers and parents also was more pronounced across different ages. 15-16 year-olds tended to follow similar communication patterns to 17-18 year-olds, but 13-14 year olds stood out. On average, 13-14 year-olds reported talking with their friends almost as often about the 25 topics as they did with their parents; by comparison, 15-16 year-olds and 17-18 year olds reportedly talked about each topic with friends an average of 7 and 8 percentage points more often, respectively. 13-14 year olds also had much smaller gaps between their reported discussion with parents and friends in areas relating to substance abuse and sex, while older teens tended to talk more often about these topics with friends.
- Compared with other racial/ethnic groups, Asian teens reported talking more often with their friends than with their parents about schoolwork and family problems. Similarly, Multi-racial teens talked more often with their friends about drinking, Cape Verdean teens talked more with their friends about drinking and family problems, and White teens talked more often with their friends about relationships and drugs.
- A greater percentage of recent immigrant teens than their counterparts reported talking more with their parents than with their friends on many of the 25 topics. This pattern highlights a pattern of cultural isolation for recent immigrant teens.

Friendship patterns, by geography (Q50)

- Nearly half of all respondents reported that most of their friends live all over the Boston area, while one-quarter reported that most lived in their neighborhood.
- Summer school teens were more likely than summer job teens to have most of their friends from all over the Boston area (53% vs. 42%), and conversely, summer job teens were more likely to have most of their friends from their neighborhood (32% vs. 21%).²⁷

Demographic group analysis:

- Younger teens were more likely than older teens to have most of their friends in their neighborhood (32% vs. 24% vs. 19%). This trend by age was not quite as pronounced when looking at the percentage of teens who reported that most of their friends lived all over the Boston area (range of 43%-51%, younger to older).
- BPS teens were more likely than P/M/C teens to report having most of their friends live all over the Boston area (50% vs. 34%).²⁸

²⁷ These differences can be explained, in part, by the different age and race/ethnicity compositions of the two samples.

²⁸ This difference can be explained, in part, by the high proportion of White teens in the P/M/C sample.

- 72% of Asian teens, by far the highest percentage of any demographic group, reported having friends all over the area. However, there was a large range for the other racial/ethnic subgroups, from Multi-racial (60%) and Latino (56%) teens to White (38%) and Cape Verdean (39%) teens. Conversely, Asian (12%) and Latino (19%) teens were least likely to report having most of their friends live in their neighborhoods, whereas White²⁹ and Cape Verdean teens (33%) were most likely.
- Teens from Jamaica Plain (70%) and Hyde Park (61%) were most likely of their counterparts to have most of their friends all over Boston. Jamaica Plain teens were also least likely to have most of their friends living in their own neighborhood (12%). On the other hand, Dorchester 02122 teens were most likely to have most of their friends live in their own neighborhood (34%).

²⁹ Due in part to their lower age in the sample.

EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

Self-Esteem (Q44)

- More than two out of three (68%) of all teen respondents reported feeling just as good as others all, most or a lot of the time. Only 9% reported never or rarely feeling that way.
- Summer job teens (73%) were somewhat more likely than summer school teens (65%) to feel as good as others all, most or a lot of the time.³⁰
- That proportion of summer job teens who reported feeling they were just as good as others all, most or a lot of the time was higher than their counterparts in 1999 (58%).

Demographic group analysis:

- P/M/C teens were somewhat more likely than BPS teens to report feeling they were just as good as others all, most or a lot of the time (75% vs. 67%), but showed no difference with BPS summer job teens.
- Asian (59%) and Latino (61%) teens reported the lowest rate of all the racial/ethnic groups (others ranged from 68-73%) who answered feeling as good as others all, most or a lot of the time.

Depression (Q45)

- 27% of the total sample felt depressed during the prior month all, most or a lot of the time; 34% never or rarely did.
- The summer school teens were somewhat more likely than the summer job teens to feel depressed all, most or a lot of the time (29% vs. 24%). Conversely, the summer job teens were more likely to have never or rarely felt depressed during that previous month (39% vs. 31%).³¹
- Roughly the same percentage of summer job respondents reported feeling depressed most, all or a lot of the time as their counterparts in the 1999 survey sample (24% vs. 22%).
- The frequency of reported feelings of depression were related to grades, as a higher proportion of teens getting D's/F's than teens getting A's/B's reported being depressed all, most or a lot of the time in the prior month (36% vs. 20%).

³⁰ This difference can be explained in part by the lower Latino rate described in the demographic group analysis.

³¹ These differences can be explained in part by the age differential described in the demographic group analysis.

Demographic group analysis:

- Males were much more likely than females to report that they never or rarely felt depressed (43% vs. 27%) in that previous month. Conversely, females were more likely to report feeling depressed all, most or a lot of the time (30% vs. 22%).
- There were differences by age for both dimensions of this question: older teens were more likely than younger teens to have felt depressed all, most or a lot of the time (29% and 27% vs. 21%), while younger teens were more likely to have never or rarely felt depressed during that prior month (41% vs. 36% vs. 28%).
- BPS summer job teens reported less frequent feelings of depression than BPS summer school teens.
- Asian (37%), Multi-racial (36%) and Cape Verdean (32%) had the highest rates among the ethnic demographic groups (others ranged from 24-28%) of feeling depressed all, most or a lot of the time. Asian teens were least likely to report never or rarely feeling depressed (18%) compared to the others (range from 29% to 38%).
- Recent immigrant teens (19%) were less likely than longer-term immigrant (33%) or U.S.-born (37%) teens to report never or rarely feeling depressed. Both sets of immigrant teens were somewhat more likely than U.S.-born teens to report feeling depressed all, most or a lot of the time (31%, 32% vs. 25%).

Hopefulness for the future (Q46)

- 60% of all teen respondents reported feeling hopeful all, most or a lot of the time. Summer job teens were somewhat more likely than summer school teens to report feeling that way (65% vs. 57%).
- 11% never or rarely felt hopeful.
- A slightly higher percentage of summer job teens (65%) felt hopeful for their future most, all or a lot of the time than their counterparts in the 1999 survey (60%).

Demographic group analysis:

- “Other school” youth reported a relatively high rate of never or rarely feeling hopeful compared to BPS or P/M/C teens (17% vs 10%, 11%).
- Latino (52%) and Multi-racial (53%) teens were the least likely to report feeling hopeful all, most or a lot of the time, while Black teens reported it with the highest frequency (65%).
- Longer-term immigrant teens were less likely to report feeling hopeful all, most or a lot of the time (52%) than recent immigrant teens (65%) or U.S.-born (62%) teens.

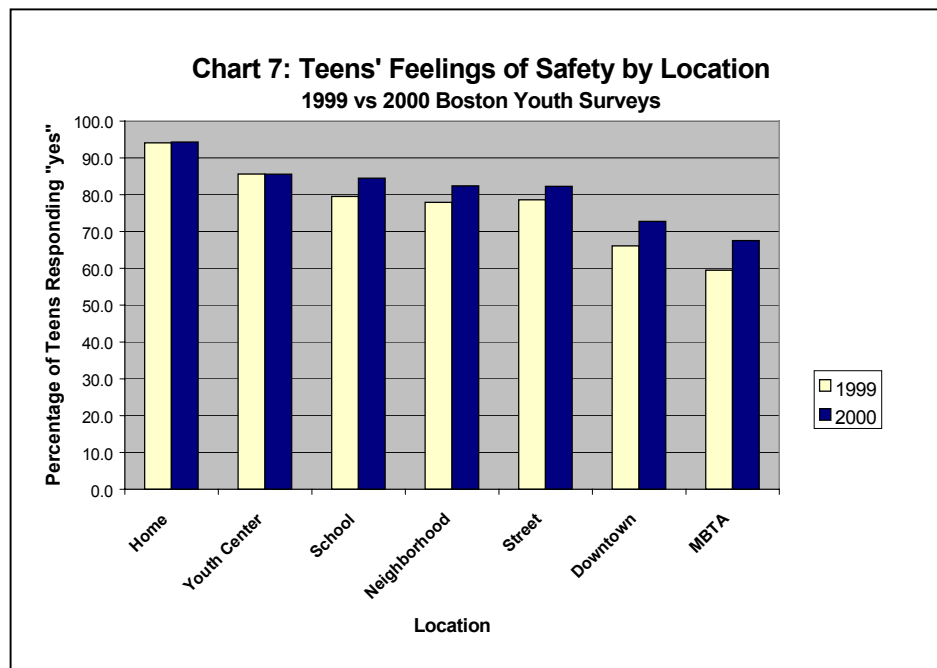
SAFETY

Feeling safe in various locations (Q28)

- Teen respondents felt safe to varying degrees in the following locations:

Home	95%	Their street	77%
Youth center	83	Downtown Boston	70
School	80	MBTA	67
Neighborhood	79		

- A higher percentage of summer job teens felt safer than did summer school teens in three of those locations: school (85% vs. 77%), their street (82% vs. 74%)³² and neighborhood (82% vs. 76%)³³. In the other areas, they felt as safe, or the margin was five percentage points or less.
- In general, summer job respondents felt as safe or slightly more safe than their counterparts in 1999 (*see Chart 7*)



Demographic group analysis:

- A higher proportion of P/M/C teens (90%) than BPS teens (79%) or other school teens (79%) felt safe in school. BPS summer job teens felt safer than BPS summer school teens (84% vs. 77%). About 70% of immigrants felt safe in their schools, compared to 84% of U.S.-born teens.

³² Due in part to a higher proportion of younger teens and White teens feeling safer than their respective counterparts.

³³ Due in part to a higher proportion of White teens feeling safer than their counterparts.

- Immigrant teens were less likely than U.S.-born teens to feel safe in nearly every location³⁴; in particular, recent immigrant teens felt less safe than longer-term immigrant teens on their street (53%) and in their neighborhood (66%).
- In general, 17-18 year olds were somewhat less likely to feel safe than their younger counterparts.
- Dorchester teens living in the 02124 zip code were least likely of their counterparts in other neighborhoods to feel safe on their street (68%) or their neighborhood (69%). Teens from Roxbury and Dorchester 02121 were also below the average of feeling safe in those locations. On the other hand, teens from Roslindale, Jamaica Plain and Hyde Park felt most safe in their neighborhoods (range of 86%-89%) and, along with teens from East Boston, on their streets (range of 82%-86%). There was little difference among teens from different neighborhoods on what proportion felt safe on the MBTA.

Type and location of violence witnessed (Q29)

- Teens witnessed violence during the previous year at the following rates, by location and type of violence:

On the street	50%	On the MBTA	23%
With fists/feet	48%	With a gun	19
In school	40%	With a bat/club	19
With a knife	26%	By family member or friend	15
		In their home	9

- 26% did not witness any violence during the previous year.
- Witnessing violence with a gun was the only appreciable difference between summer school (22%) and summer job (14%) teens³⁵.
- While summer job teens felt safer than their counterparts in 1999, they witnessed more violence, both in location and in type. (*see Chart 8 next page*)

Demographic group analysis:

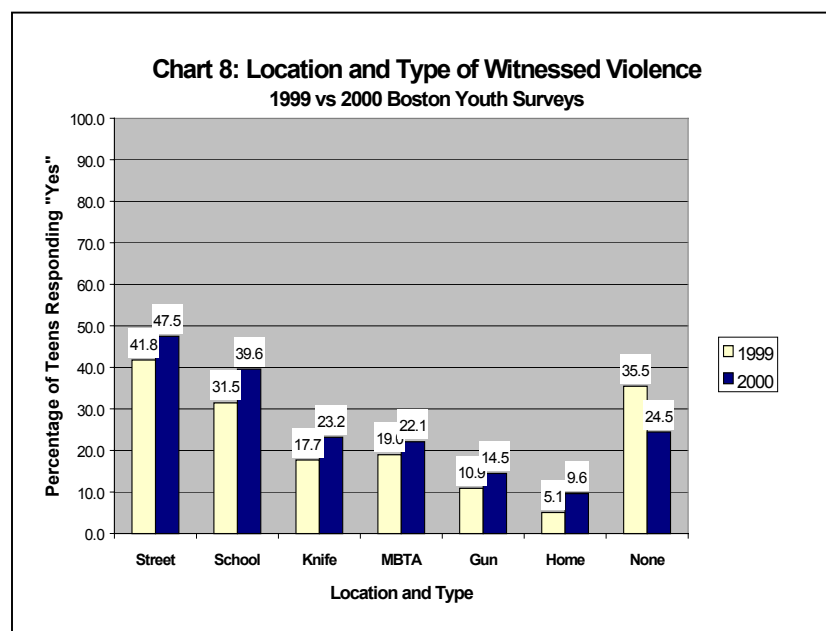
- BPS teens witnessed more violence in school than P/M/C teen (42% vs. 33%). There was no difference between BPS summer job and BPS summer school teens, nor were there any differences by age or race/ethnicity, except for Cape Verdean teens (25%)³⁶.
- While recent immigrant teens felt less safe, they were much more likely to report not witnessing any violence than longer-term immigrant or U.S.-born teens (45% vs. 27%, 22%). They were also

³⁴ Except, for longer-term immigrant teens, at home.

³⁵ Explained in part by a higher rate of older teens, and a lower rate of White teens, witnessing gun violence.

³⁶ Due in part to a higher proportion being recent immigrants who were less likely to witness violence.

much less likely than either of their counterparts to witness violence by all locations or type, except with a gun or at home.³⁷



- Males were appreciably more likely than females to witness violence on the MBTA and with a gun, a knife and a bat/club or similar weapon. Otherwise, the differences between them were only five percentage points or less.
- Younger teens were less likely to witness violence than their counterparts only on the MBTA (16%), on the street (44%), and with a gun (12%).
- Multi-racial teens were the racial/ethnic group most likely to witness violence (83%), while Cape Verdean teens³⁸ were least likely (60%).
- Multi-racial teens witnessed as much or more violence than their counterparts in all locations and for all types, particularly in the MBTA (33%), on the street (65%), and with a knife (38%).
- Multi-racial (24%), Black (21%) and Cape Verdean (21%) teens were most likely to report witnessing gun violence, while Asian (10%) and White (9%) teens were least likely.
- White teens (57%) were most likely of any ethnicity to report witnessing violence by fists or feet, with Black and Multi-racial teens (both 52%) not far behind.
- By neighborhood, Mattapan teens were most likely to witness violence on the MBTA (31%), compared to teens in the other neighborhoods (range of 17%-26%).

³⁷ In contrast, longer-term immigrant teens felt less safe than U.S.-born teens, but witnessed as much violence in all locations and types.

³⁸ Due in part to a high proportion being recent immigrants.

Gang activities in school and neighborhood (Q31, 32)

- 20% of teens perceived gang activity as very serious in their school, 29% in their neighborhood. An additional 39% saw it as somewhat serious in both locations.
- In both locations, a higher proportion of summer school than summer job teens perceived gang activity as very and/or somewhat serious.³⁹

Demographic group analysis:

- 63% of BPS teens reported gang activities in their school as somewhat or very serious compared to 36% of P/M/C teens.⁴⁰ There was no difference between these groups in reporting of gang-related violence in their neighborhood (68%).
- A greater proportion of White teens identified gang activity in their school (54%) and neighborhood (49%) as not serious, much higher than the overall averages of 40% and 32%, respectively. Latino teens most frequently reported gang activities at school as very serious or somewhat serious (68%), but Cape Verdean teens reported it as very serious most often (30%). Cape Verdean teens also reported gang-activity in their neighborhood as very serious (48%) much more often any other racia/ethnic group, and White teens reported it as very serious less often (13%) than teens from other racial/ethnic groups (range of 22-34%).
- There were no meaningful differences among the age groups in reporting gang activities at school or in the neighborhood.
- Approximately 27% of immigrant teens (recent or not) perceived gang activities in school as very serious, compared to 17% of U.S.-born teens. This gap shrank to 33% vs. 28% for gang activities in their neighborhood.
- Teens in Hyde Park (48%) and Roslindale (55%) were least likely to perceive serious gang activity in their neighborhood. In contrast, 75%-80% of teens in Roxbury, Mattapan, South End and Dorchester (except in 02122) perceived gang activity as very or somewhat serious in their neighborhood.

³⁹ For the perception of gang activity in their neighborhoods, this difference can be explained in part by a much lower proportion of White teens than of Latino teens who report it as serious.

⁴⁰ There was little difference between BPS summer job and BPS summer school teens on the seriousness of gang activity in their schools.

Drug problems in school and neighborhood (Q33-34)

- 31% of all teen respondents did not believe there was a drug problem in their school; 25% did not believe there was a drug problem in their neighborhood.
- Marijuana was identified by nearly half the respondents as the drug causing the most problems in their school; alcohol was a distant second, identified by only 7%.
- Marijuana was also identified most as the drug causing the most problems in their neighborhood (40%); alcohol was second, identified by 13%, while cocaine was identified by 8%.
- Summer school teens were somewhat more likely than summer job teens not to perceive a drug problem in their school,⁴¹ and summer job teens were more likely than summer school teens to perceive alcohol as the greatest drug problem in their school.⁴²
- There were no differences between summer school and summer job teen respondents on their perception of drug problems in their neighborhood.

Demographic group analysis:**Drug problem in school**

- 45% of the 13-14 year-old population reported *no drug problem* in their school, compared to 27% of the 15-16 year-olds and 25% of the 17-18 year-olds.
- Asian teens were the most likely of the racial/ethnic groups to report that they perceived *no drug problem* at their school (45%); Multi-racial teens were the least likely (21%).
- Asian teens were the least likely to perceive *marijuana* as the biggest drug problem in their schools (27%), compared to teens of other races/ethnicities (range of 41%-55%). P/M/C teens reported it being a problem less often than BPS teens (37% vs. 50%). 13-14 year-olds (34%) were much less likely than 15-16 year-olds (52%) or 17-18 year-olds (55%) to cite it as the major problem in their schools. Recent immigrants reported it much less often than did longer-term immigrants or U.S.-born teens (30% vs. 48%, 51%).
- White teens (13%) were almost twice as likely as any other racial/ethnic subgroup to report *alcohol* as the drug causing most problems in their school, contributing to the higher rate of P/M/C than BPS teens (14% vs. 6%) reporting similarly.

Drug problem in neighborhood

- There was little difference between BPS and P/M/C teens. Asian teens were more likely not to perceive a problem (42%), with Cape Verdean teens the next most likely (31%); Black, Latino, Multi-racial, and White teens reported “no drug problem” at frequencies between 20-25%.

⁴¹ That difference might be even greater if the two samples had the same age structure, as a much higher proportion of 13-14 year olds, who make up a higher proportion of the summer job population, did not perceive drugs as a problem.

⁴² In part because of a higher proportion of White teens who likewise perceive alcohol as the biggest problem.

Younger 13-14 year-olds were more likely to report no problem than 15-16 or 17-18 year-olds (32% vs. 23% vs. 22%). Immigrant teens (32%) were more likely than U.S.-born teens (22%) to report no drug problem in their neighborhood. Hyde Park (41%) and Roslindale (37%) teens were most likely of the neighborhood samples analyzed to not perceive a drug problem in their neighborhood.

- Teens from each racial/ethnic group saw *marijuana* as the leading neighborhood drug problem, particularly Black, Latino and Multi-racial teens (46%-48%); other racial/ethnic groups reported it less frequently (range of 23-40%), with Asian teens citing it least often. Teens in Mattapan (50%), Dorchester 02124 (48%), and the South End (47%) were most likely of the neighborhood samples analyzed to single out marijuana.
- *Alcohol*, *cocaine* and *heroin* were each cited by more respondents as the leading drug problem in their neighborhood (24% combined), compared to reporting of those drugs as the biggest problem in school (10% combined). *Alcohol* was cited by 20% of Whites as the leading drug problem in their neighborhood (vs. range of 9-14% for other races). It was also cited by 19% of the sample in Dorchester 02122.⁴³
- “Other school” teens were most likely to cite *cocaine* (14%) and *heroin* (13%) as the leading drug. 12% of Black teens identified cocaine, and cocaine was identified by 20% of the sample of teens from Dorchester 02121. 9% of White teens identified heroin as the biggest drug problem, almost twice as much as did any other racial/ethnic subgroup.

⁴³ Which has a relatively high White population (30%), although East Boston and Hyde Park, with an equally high White population, did not have as high a proportion of its sample identifying alcohol.

HEALTH

Attendance at prevention classes (Q35,36)

- Only 31% of all respondents reported having attended a prevention class in the previous year.
- Summer job teens were more likely than summer school teens to have done so (37% vs. 28%).
- Of those who attended a prevention class, the specific types of classes were as follows:

- Drug	67%	- Violence	51%
- HIV/AIDS	59	- Alcohol	47
- Smoking	51	- Pregnancy	43
- Summer job teens were slightly more likely than summer school teens to have attended an alcohol prevention class, while the summer school teens were slightly more likely to have attended pregnancy prevention and HIV/AIDS prevention classes.⁴⁴

Demographic group analysis

- P/M/C teens were more likely than BPS teens to have attended a prevention class of some kind (41% vs. 29%). Other school teens were even more likely to have attended a class (47%). There was little difference between BPS summer job and BPS summer school teens. Multi-racial teens were the most likely of the racial/ethnic groups to have attended a class (43% vs. range of others 27-36%).
- There were few differences by gender or age in participation in specific prevention topics, other than females being more likely than males to attend pregnancy prevention classes and 17-18 year olds more likely than their younger counterparts to attend violence prevention classes.
- The number of respondents, by race/ethnicity and by length of time living in US, was too small to conduct demographic group analyses for each type of prevention class.

⁴⁴ These differences can be attributed in part to differences in the racial/ethnic composition of the two samples.

Covered by health insurance (Q22)

- 76% of the respondents reported having health insurance coverage; 5% said they did not and 19% weren't sure.
- 83% of the summer job teens, compared to 72% of summer school teens, reported being covered by health insurance, but that difference was due to the higher percentage of summer school teens who were not sure if they had coverage (23% vs. 13%).
- A higher percentage of the summer job teen sample than their counterparts in 1999 (74%) reported having health insurance coverage, due in part to a higher percentage in 1999 reporting both that they didn't have insurance and that they weren't sure if they did or not. (*see Table 8 in Appendix*)

Demographic group analysis:

- Twice as many BPS teens as P/M/C teens didn't know whether they had health insurance (21% vs. 10%).
- Recent immigrants (12%) and "other school" teens (11%) were the most likely of all the demographic groups to report having no insurance, while other groups ranged from 2% (13-14 year-olds) to 9% (Cape Verdean teens). Recent immigrants (36%) were by far the most likely to report being unsure, with other subgroups ranging from 11% (P/M/C) to 24% (13-14 year-olds). As a result, only 52% of recent immigrants could confirm having health insurance.
- A higher percentage of teen respondents from East Boston (30%) than their counterparts from other neighborhoods didn't know if they had health insurance coverage.

Asthma (Q23-24)

- Nearly one in four respondents (23%) reported that they had ever been diagnosed with asthma by a doctor.
- Of those, nearly two in three (63%) reported still having asthma, meaning that approximately one in seven teens surveyed had active cases of asthma. 13% responded that they didn't know if they still had asthma.

Demographic group analysis:

- U.S.-born teens reported a higher rate of having ever had asthma than immigrant teens (26% vs. 16%).
- Consistent with the high percentage of immigrants in their samples, Asian (19%) and Cape Verdean (13%) teens were least likely of the racial/ethnic groups to report ever having been diagnosed. However, in spite of the high percentage of immigrants in its sample, Latino (28%) teens, along with Multi-racial (29%) teens, were most likely to report having been diagnosed.

- P/M/C teens were somewhat more likely than BPS teens (either summer job or summer school) to report ever having had asthma (29% vs. 22%).⁴⁵
- 30% of the teen respondents from the South End reported that they had been diagnosed with asthma, a higher proportion than their counterparts from other neighborhoods.
- Of those who had ever been diagnosed with asthma, 13-16 year old teens (65%) were somewhat more likely than 17-18 year-old teens (57%) to report still having asthma. In addition, females were much more likely than males (72% vs. 53%) to report still having asthma.
- Of those who had been diagnosed, 75% of P/M/C teens reported still having asthma, compared to 67% of BPS summer school teens and 54% of BPS summer job teens. That difference is due in part to a higher percentage of BPS teens reporting that they didn't know if they still had asthma.

Medical condition (Q25)

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approximately one out of six respondents from the entire sample reported having a medical condition that affected their ability to perform in school or in sports. |
|--|

Demographic group analysis:

- There was very little variation among the demographic groups – Asian teens were least likely (11%) and recent immigrants most likely (20%) to report such a medical condition.

⁴⁵ There were no age differences or differences in the racial/ethnic rate to explain that difference. One possible explanation is that teens attending P/M/C schools had more access to diagnosis through medical care than did teens attending BPS.

TABLE 1: SOURCE OF SURVEY RETURNS

Summer School	1,333
Summer Jobs Programs	952
Parks and Recreation/Boston Youth Corps “Gray Shirts”	514
Parks and Recreation/Boston Youth Corps CBOs*	178
Private Industry Council	178
Police Department/ Summer of Opportunity	36
Mass. Department of Youth Services**	36
ABCD	10
Total	2,285

* Mostly from Boston Community Centers

** Not a traditional summer jobs program

TABLE 2: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Variable	N*	%	2000 US CENSUS (age 0-18)
BPS	1642	80.7	
Private/METCO/Charter	254	12.5	
Other School	138	6.8	
Female	1024	51.7	
Male	957	48.3	
13-14 years old	450	21.7	
15-16 years old	857	41.4	
17-18 years old	611	29.6	
Other	151	7.3	
Asian	116	5.8	6.7%
Black	692	34.8	37.2
Cape Verdean	98	4.9	N/A
Native American	28	1.5	0.4
Latino	398	20.0	23.9
Multi-racial	102	5.1	4.2
White	369	18.6	25.4
Other	186	9.4	1.9
U.S.-born	1519	74.5	
Recent immigrant	183	9.0	
Longer-term immigrant	338	16.6	
Heterosexual	1794	90.8	
GLBT	59	3.0	
Not sure	122	6.2	
Allston-Brighton	64	3.1	5.6
Back Bay-Beacon Hill	4	0.2	1.1
Charlestown	62	3.0	2.4
Chinatown	18	0.9	n.a.
Dorchester	749	36.5	21.6
02121	115	5.6	n.a.
02122	122	5.9	n.a.
02124	294	14.3	n.a.
02125	167	8.1	n.a.
East Boston	109	5.3	7.8
Fenway/Kenmore	5	0.2	0.6
Hyde Park	169	8.2	7.0
Jamaica Plain	89	4.3	6.0
Mattapan	154	7.5	10.5
Mission Hill	23	1.1	n.a.
North End	19	0.9	n.a.
Roslindale	123	6.0	6.9
Roxbury	185	9.0	15.8
South Boston	61	3.0	4.7
South End	100	4.9	3.5
West Roxbury	47	2.3	4.9
Other	64	3.1	

*Missing responses to each demographic question are not included; thus, the totals do not add up to 2285

**TABLE 3: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES OF
SUMMER SCHOOL VS. SUMMER JOB SAMPLES AND
SUMMER JOB VS. 1999 SAMPLE**

Variable	Summer School	Summer Job	1999 Sample
BPS	92.5%	63.9%	66.6
Private/METCO/Charter	3.9	24.8	25.6
Other School	3.6	11.4	7.8
Female	51.0	52.7	53.6
Male	49.0	47.3	46.4
13-14 years old	19.1	25.4	20.2
15-16 years old	37.1	47.4	54.6
17-18 years old	34.3	22.7	20.9
Other	9.5	4.4	4.3
Asian	4.9	7.2	7.6
Black	36.3	32.7	40.7
Cape Verdean	6.8	2.4	6.9
Latino	25.8	12.0	11.1
Multi-racial	5.0	5.3	6.1
White	8.8	32.0	25.1
Other	11.1	7.0	2.5
U.S.-born	69.4	81.6	81.3
Recent immigrant	11.2	5.9	5.9
Longer-term immigrant	19.4	12.6	12.8

**TABLE 4: DISTRIBUTION OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY RACE/ETHNICITY,
BY SUMMER SCHOOL OR SUMMER JOB SAMPLE**

<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	<u>Summer School</u>	<u>Summer Job</u>	<u>Total</u>
Asian	48%	52%	100%
Black	61	39	100
Cape Verdean	80	20	100
Latino	75	25	100
Multi-racial	57	43	100
White	28	72	100

**TABLE 5: COMMUNICATION PATTERN* OF TEENS WITH THEIR PARENTS,
DURING THE PRIOR SIX MONTHS**

TOPIC	TOTAL	SUMMER SCHOOL	SUMMER JOB
School work	77.2%	78.2	75.7
Finding a job	60.7	61.6	59.3
Dreams/goals for future	52.3	56.0	47.2
Relationships	47.7	47.0	48.8
Playing sports/exercising	42.6	40.6	45.6
Family problems	36.0	38.6	32.4
Body piercing/tattoos	35.8	35.5	36.1
Drugs	33.9	34.7	32.8
Safe sex or birth control	32.9	34.5	30.7
College applications	31.0	32.9	28.4
Creative activities	28.9	28.4	29.6
Drinking	27.4	25.6	29.9
Pregnancy	27.3	28.7	25.5
Body weight or physique	25.5	25.4	25.8
Place to live	25.3	28.6	20.6
Religion or spirituality	24.3	25.4	22.7
Death in family	24.1	24.3	23.9
AIDS	17.0	18.9	14.2
Carrying weapons	15.7	16.4	14.8
Joining a gang	14.0	14.9	12.8
Local political/social issues	13.6	11.6	16.3
Date rape or violence	13.3	12.9	13.8
Natn'l/intern'l politics/social issues	11.9	9.5	15.1
Sexual identity	9.5	9.1	10.1
Suicide	8.0	7.2	9.1

* Percentage of teens who talked with their parents about each of the topics listed.

**TABLE 6: COMMUNICATION PATTERN* OF TEENS WITH THEIR FRIENDS,
DURING THE PRIOR SIX MONTHS**

TOPIC	TOTAL	SUMMER SCHOOL	SUMMER JOB
Relationships	71.2	70.4	72.5
Finding a job	69.1	71.8	65.4
School work	58.4	59.7	56.6
Body piercing/tattoos	55.9	56.9	54.6
Dreams/goals for future	51.4	54.6	47.0
Playing sports/exercising	48.5	48.0	49.1
Drugs	43.3	43.4	43.2
Safe sex or birth control	42.3	45.6	37.9
Drinking	41.4	40.3	42.9
Family problems	40.1	43.6	35.2
Pregnancy	39.2	41.7	35.7
Body weight or physique	36.4	35.7	37.4
Creative activities	35.3	36.4	33.7
Place to live	34.7	38.9	28.8
College applications	32.4	34.3	29.9
Carrying weapons	27.3	29.9	23.7
Death in family	23.8	24.2	23.4
Religion or spirituality	22.5	22.7	22.3
Date rape or violence	20.5	20.5	20.6
Joining a gang	18.5	20.3	16.0
Suicide	17.3	15.9	19.2
AIDS	16.8	16.9	16.7
Sexual identity	16.1	16.5	15.5
Local political/social issues	14.5	13.5	16.0
Natn'l/intern'l politics/social issues	11.2	9.1	14.0

* Percentage of teens who talked with their friends about each of the topics listed.

TABLE 7: RATIO OF TEENS TALKING TO FRIENDS VS. PARENTS, BY TOPIC

TOPIC	FRIEND:PARENT RATIO	% of Teens Talking to Friends	% of Teens Talking to Parents
Suicide	2.17	17.3%	8.0%
Carrying Weapons	1.74	27.3	15.7
Sexual Identity	1.70	16.1	9.5
Body Piercing/Tattoos	1.56	55.9	35.9
Date Rape or Violence	1.55	20.5	13.3
Drinking	1.51	41.4	27.4
Relationships	1.49	71.2	47.7
Pregnancy	1.43	39.2	27.3
Body Weight/Physique	1.43	36.4	25.5
Place to Live	1.37	34.7	25.3
Joining a Gang	1.35	18.5	14.0
Safe Sex/Birth Control	1.29	42.3	32.9
Drugs	1.28	43.3	33.9
Creative Activities	1.22	35.3	28.9
Finding a Job	1.14	69.1	60.7
Playing Sports/Exercising	1.14	48.5	42.6
Family Problems	1.11	40.1	36.0
Local Politics/Social Issues	1.07	14.5	13.6
College Applications	1.05	32.4	31.0
Death in the Family	0.99	23.8	24.1
AIDS	0.99	16.8	16.9
Goals/Dreams for Future	0.98	51.4	52.3
National/International political/social issues	0.94	11.2	11.9
Religion/Spirituality	0.93	22.5	24.3
School Work	0.76	58.4	77.2

**TABLE 8: COMPARISON OF REPORTED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE
BETWEEN 1999 AND 2000 SAMPLES**

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
1999 Boston Youth Survey	74.2%	7.2	18.6
2000 Summer Job Sample	82.5	4.5	13.0

2000 BOSTON YOUTH SURVEY

1. Do you exercise or play sports regularly (at least once a week)? a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐

2. If yes to #1, do you play a team sport with regular practices and adult coaches?

a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐

PLEASE ANSWER QUESTIONS 3 - 16 IF YOU ATTENDED SCHOOL LAST YEAR; IF YOU DIDN'T, PLEASE SKIP TO QUESTION 17

3. During the last school year, about how much sleep did you get on a school night?

a) Less than six hours ☐ b) Six or seven hours ☐ c) Eight or more hours ☐

4. At school, did you feel tired:

a) Most or all of the time ☐ b) Some of the time ☐ c) Never or rarely ☐

5. During the school year, did you have breakfast before class:

a) Most or all of the time ☐ b) Some of the time ☐ c) Never or rarely ☐

6. In school, was homework assigned to you:

a) Daily ☐ b) Most days ☐ c) Occasionally ☐ d) Rarely ☐ e) Never ☐

7. About how much time did you spend each day working on homework assigned to you?

a) More than three hours ☐ b) Between one and three hours ☐ c) Between a half hour and one hour ☐
d) Less than a half-hour ☐ e) No homework is assigned to me ☐

8. Did you take the MCAS test this past school year? a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐

9. When you took the MCAS test this past year, did you find the test to be:

a) Too hard ☐ b) Just about right ☐ c) Too easy ☐ d) I did not take the test ☐

10. When you took the MCAS test this past year, did you take the test seriously?

a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐ c) I did not take the test ☐

11. How important is it to at least one of your parent(s)/guardian(s) that you succeed in school?

- a) Very much ☐ b) Somewhat ☐ c) Very little or not at all ☐

12. What were most of your grades last year?

- a) A's and B's ☐ b) B's and C's ☐ c) C's and D's ☐ d) D's and F's ☐

13. During the past school year, *not counting sick days*, how many days were you absent from school?

- a) None ☐ b) Between one and six days ☐ c) Between seven and 12 days ☐
 d) Between 13 and 20 days ☐ e) Between 21 and 29 days ☐ f) More than 30 days ☐

14. Why didn't you go to school on *those days* you were absent? (Check all that apply)

- a) Didn't care about school ☐ b) Troubles with other students ☐ c) Troubles with teachers ☐
 d) Felt unsafe ☐ e) Family vacation ☐ f) Trouble at home ☐
 g) Had to take care of younger brothers/sisters ☐ h) Other ☐ (please specify) _____

15. Did your parent(s)/guardian(s) know that you missed school on *those days*?

- a) All or most of the time ☐ b) Some of the time ☐ c) Rarely or none of the time ☐

16. Last year at school, *not counting sick days*, do you feel that your attendance compared to the prior school year:

- a) Improved ☐ b) Stayed the same ☐ c) Got worse ☐

17. Do you have access to the Internet:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) at home? | Yes <input type="radio"/> | No <input type="radio"/> |
| b) at school? | Yes <input type="radio"/> | No <input type="radio"/> |
| c) in the public library? | Yes <input type="radio"/> | No <input type="radio"/> |
| d) in a Boston Community Center? | Yes <input type="radio"/> | No <input type="radio"/> |

18. About how much time a day do you spend combined watching TV, playing video games or on the Internet for fun?

- a) More than ten hours ☐ b) Between six and ten hours ☐ c) Between four and six hours ☐
d) Between two and four hours ☐ e) Between one and two hours ☐ f) Less than an hour or none ☐

19. About how much time a day do you spend just on the Internet (for fun, not schoolwork)?

- a) More than six hours ☐ b) Between four and six hours ☐ c) Between two and four hours ☐
d) Between one and two hours ☐ e) Less than an hour ☐ f) None ☐

20. Do you have a TV in the room where you sleep? a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐

21. Do you have a computer in the room where you sleep? a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐

22. Are you covered by health insurance? a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐ c) Don't know ☐

23. Did a doctor ever tell you or your parent that you had asthma? a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐ c) Don't know ☐

24. If "yes" to #23 above, do you still have asthma? a) Yes ☐ No ☐ c) Don't know ☐

25. Do you have a medical condition that affects your ability to perform in school or in sports?

- a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐

26. What do you MOST FREQUENTLY do after school? (Check only one)

- a) Go home by myself ☐ b) Stay with relatives ☐ c) Go home to parent/guardian ☐
d) Take care of family members ☐ e) Hang out with friends ☐ f) Go to work ☐
g) Go to a sports, arts or recreation program in the community ☐
h) Participate in a school sports or club activity ☐ i) Other ☐ (please specify) _____

27. What else do you do after school, on days when you don't do the one thing you checked above? (Check all that apply)

- a) Go home by myself ☐ b) Stay with relatives ☐ c) Go home to parent or guardian ☐
d) Take care of family members ☐ e) Hang out with friends ☐ f) Go to work ☐
g) Go to a sports, arts or recreation program in the community ☐
h) Participate in a school sports or club activity ☐ i) Other ☐ (please specify) _____

28. Do you feel safe.... (answer Yes or No)

- a) At school? Yes ☐ No ☐ b) At home? Yes ☐ No ☐ c) On your street? Yes ☐ No ☐
d) On the MBTA? Yes ☐ No ☐ e) At your youth center? Yes ☐ No ☐
f) In your neighborhood? Yes ☐ No ☐ g) In Downtown Boston? Yes ☐ No ☐

29. Within the last year, have you witnessed an act of violence? a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐

30. Was the violence you witnessed during the last year committed: (Check all that apply)

- a) On the MBTA? ☐ b) In your home? ☐ c) In school? ☐
d) On the street? ☐ e) With a gun? ☐ f) With a bat, club or similar weapon? ☐
g) With a knife? ☐ h) With fists or feet? ☐ i) By a family member or friend? ☐
j) I did not witness any violence in the last year ☐

31. How serious do you think gang activities are in your school?

- a) Very serious ☐ b) Somewhat serious ☐ c) Not serious ☐

32. How serious do you think gang activities are in your neighborhood?

- a) Very serious ☐ b) Somewhat serious ☐ c) Not serious ☐

33. What drug, if any, is causing the most problems in your school? (Check only one)

- a) Alcohol ☐ b) Cocaine ☐ c) Heroin ☐ d) Marijuana ☐ e) Ecstasy ☐
f) Other ☐ _____ g) There are no drug problems in my school ☐

34. What drug, if any, is causing the most problems in your neighborhood? (Check only one)

- a) Alcohol ☐ b) Cocaine ☐ c) Heroin ☐ d) Marijuana ☐ e) Ecstasy ☐
f) Other ☐ _____ g) There are no drug problems in my neighborhood ☐

35. During the last year, have you attended any prevention classes, in or out of school?

- a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐

36. If “yes” to #34 above, what kind of prevention class did you attend? (Check all that apply)

- a) Smoking ☐ b) HIV/AIDS ☐ c) Alcohol ☐
d) Drugs ☐ e) Violence ☐ f) Pregnancy ☐
g) Other ☐ (please specify) _____

37. On how many of the past seven days was at least one of your parent(s)/guardian(s) in the room with you while you ate your evening meal?

- a) Every day ☐ b) Five or six days ☐ c) Three or four days ☐ d) None, one or two days ☐

38. When you go out do your parent(s)/guardian(s) generally know where you are and with whom?

- a) Always or most of the time ☐ b) Some of the time ☐ c) Rarely or never ☐

39. During the past six months, have you and your parent(s)/guardian(s) talked about any of the following issues? (Check all that apply)

- a) School work ☐ b) Relationships ☐ c) Creative activities (arts, writing, music, e.g.) ☐
d) Suicide ☐ e) Finding a job ☐ f) Body piercing/tattoos ☐
g) Place to live ☐ h) Date rape or violence ☐ i) Joining a gang ☐
j) Death in family ☐ k) AIDS ☐ l) Playing sports or exercising ☐
m) Pregnancy ☐ n) College applications ☐ o) Drinking ☐
p) Drugs ☐ q) Body weight or physique ☐ r) Family problems ☐
s) Carrying weapons ☐ t) Sexual identity ☐ u) Safe sex or birth control ☐
v) Religion or spirituality ☐ w) Local political or social issues ☐
x) National or international political or social issues ☐ y) Your goals and dreams for the future ☐

40. During the last 12 months, if you have had any contact with an MBTA police officer, what was the reason for the contact? (Check all that apply)

- a) I did not have any contact with an MBTA police officer during the past 12 months ☐
b) I was stopped and questioned about a crime ☐
c) I was warned about doing something I shouldn't have been doing ☐
d) I reported a crime ☐
e) I asked for directions or other assistance ☐
f) I was arrested ☐
g) I was stopped and searched ☐
h) I was there when someone else was questioned or arrested ☐
i) Other ☐ (please specify) _____

41. Do you feel you were treated with respect by the MBTA police during this/these encounter(s)?

- a) Always ☐ b) Most of the time ☐ c) Some of the time ☐ d) Never ☐
- e) I didn't have contact with an MBTA police officer ☐

42. During the past 12 months, if you have had any contact with a Boston Police Department officer, what was the reason for the contact? (Check all that apply)

- a) I did not have any contact with a Boston police officer during the past 12 months ☐
- b) I was stopped and questioned about a crime ☐
- c) I know the neighborhood Youth Service Officer ☐
- d) I attended a prevention, sports or recreation program run by police officers ☐
- e) I was warned about doing something I shouldn't have been doing ☐
- f) I reported a crime ☐
- g) I was pulled over in my motor vehicle ☐
- h) I asked for directions or other assistance ☐
- i) I reported a motor vehicle accident ☐
- j) I was arrested ☐
- k) I was stopped and searched ☐
- l) I was there when someone else was questioned or arrested ☐
- m) Other ☐ (please specify) _____

43. Do you feel you were treated with respect by the Boston police during this/these encounter(s)?

- a) Always ☐ b) Most of the time ☐ c) Some of the time ☐ d) Never ☐
- e) I didn't have contact with a Boston Police Department officer ☐

DURING THE PAST MONTH, HOW OFTEN WAS EACH OF THE FOLLOWING TRUE:

44. You felt that you were just as good as other people.

- a) Most of or all of the time ☐ b) A lot of the time ☐ c) Sometimes ☐ d) Never or rarely ☐

45. You felt depressed.

- a) Most of or all of the time ☐ b) A lot of the time ☐ c) Sometimes ☐ d) Never or rarely ☐

46. You felt hopeful about the future.

- a) Most of or all of the time ☐ b) A lot of the time ☐ c) Sometimes ☐ d) Never or rarely ☐

47. In the last six months, have you performed any volunteer work or community service, through your family, school, faith organization, youth club or some other organization?

- a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐

48. Have you ever been trained as a peer educator or leader? a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐

49. During the past six months, have you and any of your friends talked about any of the following issues? (Check all that apply)

- a) School work ☐ b) Relationships ☐ c) Creative activities (arts, writing, music, e.g.) ☐
d) Suicide ☐ e) Finding a job ☐ f) Body piercing/tattoos ☐
g) Place to live ☐ h) Date Rape or violence ☐ i) Joining a gang ☐
j) Death in family ☐ k) AIDS ☐ l) Playing sports or exercising ☐
m) Pregnancy ☐ n) College applications ☐ o) Drinking ☐
p) Drugs ☐ q) Body weight or physique ☐ r) Family problems ☐
s) Carrying weapons ☐ t) Sexual identity ☐ u) Safe sex or birth control ☐
v) Religion or spirituality ☐ w) Local political or social issues ☐
x) National or international political or social issues ☐ y) Your goals and dreams for the future ☐

50. Do most of your friends:

- a) Live in your neighborhood ☐ b) Live in your neighborhood or areas close to your neighborhood ☐
- c) Live all over the Boston area ☐

THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING THOSE QUESTIONS. If you fill out the information on the following pages, this survey will be even more helpful.

51. What is your age:

- a) 13 ☐ b) 14 ☐ c) 15 ☐ d) 16 ☐ e) 17 ☐ d) 18 ☐ e) Other ☐ _____

52. Are you a: a) Female ☐ b) Male ☐**53. During the last school year, were you: (Check only one)**

- a) In a Boston public school ☐ b) In a private or parochial school ☐ c) In an alternative school ☐
- d) In a charter school ☐ e) Out of school and working ☐ f) Out of school and not working ☐
- g) In METCO ☐ h) In a GED program ☐ I) Other ☐ _____

54. During the last school year, were you in grade:

- a) 7 ☐ b) 8 ☐ c) 9 ☐ d) 10 ☐ e) 11 ☐ f) 12 ☐ g) Other ☐ _____
- h) I did not attend school last year ☐

55. What neighborhood do you live in? (Check the one you live in or most often live in)

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| a) Allston <input type="radio"/> | k) Mattapan <input type="radio"/> |
| b) Beacon Hill or Back Bay <input type="radio"/> | l) Mission Hill <input type="radio"/> |
| c) Brighton <input type="radio"/> | m) North End <input type="radio"/> |
| d) Charlestown <input type="radio"/> | n) Roslindale <input type="radio"/> |
| e) Chinatown <input type="radio"/> | o) Roxbury <input type="radio"/> |
| f) Dorchester <input type="radio"/> | p) South Boston <input type="radio"/> |
| g) East Boston <input type="radio"/> | q) South End <input type="radio"/> |
| h) Fenway <input type="radio"/> | r) West End <input type="radio"/> |
| i) Hyde Park <input type="radio"/> | s) West Roxbury <input type="radio"/> |

- j) Jamaica Plain ☐ t) Other ☐ (please specify) _____
 u) I don't live in Boston ☐

56. What is your zip code? (Check the one you live in or most often live in)

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a) 02108 <input type="radio"/> | h) 02116 <input type="radio"/> | o) 02125 <input type="radio"/> | u) 02131 <input type="radio"/> | aa) 02152 <input type="radio"/> |
| b) 02109 <input type="radio"/> | j) 02118 <input type="radio"/> | p) 02126 <input type="radio"/> | v) 02132 <input type="radio"/> | bb) 02167 <input type="radio"/> |
| c) 02110 <input type="radio"/> | i) 02119 <input type="radio"/> | q) 02127 <input type="radio"/> | w) 02134 <input type="radio"/> | cc) 02171 <input type="radio"/> |
| d) 02111 <input type="radio"/> | k) 02120 <input type="radio"/> | r) 02128 <input type="radio"/> | x) 02135 <input type="radio"/> | dd) 02199 <input type="radio"/> |
| e) 02113 <input type="radio"/> | l) 02121 <input type="radio"/> | s) 02129 <input type="radio"/> | y) 02136 <input type="radio"/> | ee) 02210 <input type="radio"/> |
| f) 02114 <input type="radio"/> | m) 02122 <input type="radio"/> | t) 02130 <input type="radio"/> | z) 02146 <input type="radio"/> | ff) 02215 <input type="radio"/> |
| g) 02115 <input type="radio"/> | n) 02124 <input type="radio"/> | gg) Other <input type="radio"/> (please specify) _____ | | |

57. Who lives in your house: (Check all that apply)

- a) My mother ☐ b) My female guardian ☐ c) My father ☐ d) My male guardian ☐
 e) My grandparent/s ☐ f) Brother/Sister ☐ g) Other relatives (aunt, uncle, etc.) ☐
 h) Friends ☐ i) I live in a foster home ☐ j) I live alone ☐
 k) Boyfriend/girlfriend or spouse ☐ l) Other ☐ (please specify) _____

58. Do you consider yourself to be: (Check only one)

- a) Asian or Pacific Islander ☐ b) Black or African-American ☐ c) Latino/Hispanic ☐
 d) Native American ☐ e) Bi-racial or Multi-racial ☐ f) Cape Verdean ☐
 g) White ☐ h) Other ☐ (please specify) _____

59. Do you consider yourself to be: (Check only one)

- a) Heterosexual (straight) ☐ b) Gay or Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender ☐ c) Not sure ☐

60. How long have you lived in the United States? (Check only one)

- a) I have always lived in the United States ☐ b) Four years or less ☐ c) More than four years ☐

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!